



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Leadership Meeting in Tunis Continues

Deportation Issue Stressed

LD0504140093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] In a statement issued in Tunis today at the end of meetings held under the chairmanship of president 'Arafat to discuss the resumption of the Middle East peace process, the Palestinian leadership said that obtaining the implementation of the UN resolution on the deportees and Israel's commitment not to resort to deportations in the future will guarantee the removal of the obstacles preventing the resumption of the peace talks.

Moreover, the Palestinian leadership stressed the need for immediate intervention by the international community to provide protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The session also decided to remain open for the next few days.

Meetings, Decision on Talks Suspended

LD0504164293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] In Tunis, the Palestinian leadership today suspended its extended meetings without deciding on participation in the Arab- Israeli peace talks, scheduled to start on 20 April in Washington.

The final decision will be made in the middle of this month at the meeting of the Arab belt countries in Amman.

Discussions Detailed

LD0504183693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] During its meetings over the past days, in the presence of a number of brother leaders from inside the occupied homeland and members of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, the Palestinian leadership, under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, studied the results of the contacts and consultations which took place at the Arab and international levels, and in particular the recent contacts concluded with the brother leaders in Morocco, Egypt, and Tunisia concerning the current developments in the region, the peace process, and the efforts and proposals included in it for removing the obstacles which block the way of this process.

The Palestinian leadership also reviewed the results of the five-sided Arab meeting in Damascus and expressed great appreciation for its results, which strengthen the

unity of the Arab stance, provide protection for Arab rights, and secure a comprehensive solution within the framework of the peace process in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Palestinian leadership also discussed the results of the contacts which the Palestinian delegation conducted in Washington with the U.S. secretary of state and with a delegation from the cosponsors of the peace conference, and also the results of the Troika meetings and the contacts with the Russian foreign minister.

Based on the premise of its adherence to the peace process and the importance of achieving positive results, the Palestinian leadership declared the necessity of dealing with and solving the main issues in connection with the return of the deportees in accordance with Resolution 799, the return of past deportees, the Israeli government's pledge not to carry out deportations in the future, and other issues which deal with the rights of the Palestinians on the basis of the Geneva convention, respect for the peace process terms of reference, in particular Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, guarantees for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their land, including Holy Jerusalem, and raising the economic siege from the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian leadership affirmed that reaching tangible and effective solutions of these issues and guaranteeing their adherence and implementation will ensure the removal of obstacles and the resumption of the peace process on its correct path.

The Palestinian leadership also discussed the development of the situation inside the occupied homeland in light of the dangerous escalation, the Israeli military campaigns, the Israeli occupation's violations and crimes, and the execution of campaigns of killing, arrest, siege, starvation, and separation of parts of the occupied Palestinian land from one another.

The Palestinian leadership stressed the necessity of urgent intervention by the international community to provide protection for the sons of our Palestinian people who are bravely and courageously confronting the Israeli terror campaigns.

The Palestinian leadership will continue its contacts to achieve these aims in coordination with concerned Arab parties, and its meetings will remain open during the following days.

'Arafat Adviser on Peace Talks

NC0504090593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to our program.

[Abu-Sharif] Thanks.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] The Palestinian leadership is currently holding an expanded meeting in Tunis under the chairmanship of president Yasir 'Arafat. Would you tell us about the topics under discussion?

[Abu-Sharif] The current session focuses on the coming round of talks. The U.S. Administration has proposed that the talks resume in Washington on 20 April. The Palestinian leadership is assessing recent developments and ongoing contacts with European nations and the United States. The leadership is also looking into the grave conditions in the occupied territories, where the Israelis are stepping up their bloody terror campaign against our people. They have even sealed off the West Bank and Gaza to put more pressure on our people.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] At a recent cordon states meeting in Damascus, Arab delegations decided to postpone a decision on their participation in the coming round of peace talks. How do the Palestinians view this development?

[Abu-Sharif] Our position is clear and unambiguous. The UN Security Council has passed resolutions on the deportees, and Israel should honor and obey these resolutions. Israel should not deport Palestinians, individually or collectively. Israel should also accept Resolutions 242 and 338 as reference points for the peace process, in line with the proposals made by the previous U.S. Administration. The Israeli Government has been dodging these issues. At the same time, it has been stepping up its bloody and terroristic practices against our Palestinian people. The Israeli Government is waging a war of starvation against the Gaza strip by sealing it off and preventing its inhabitants from travel.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] President Husni Mubarak is currently on a tour of Europe and the United States. How do the Palestinian see President Mubarak's talks in Bonn and London and the meeting he will hold with U.S. President Bill Clinton tomorrow in Washington?

[Abu-Sharif] Egypt's position on the rights of the Palestinian people is one of unreserved support. Egypt's and President Mubarak's support for our just struggle for a peace based on international legitimacy is considerably important. The Palestinian leadership is following with great interest President Mubarak's visit to Washington, during which he will meet with President Clinton. We are confident that President Mubarak will defend the rights of the Palestinian people and try to make the U.S. Administration apply one standard, not two, in considering the resolutions of international legitimacy. As soon as President Mubarak returns from his tour, I expect president 'Arafat to visit Cairo to be briefed on the outcome of the Mubarak-Clinton talks.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] What is the Palestinian view of Israel's attempt to isolate the Gaza Strip and West Bank from the world and the current situation in the occupied territories?

[Abu-Sharif] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin continues his intransigence and continues to escalate his iron fist policy toward the Palestinian people. There is no doubt that this escalation in bloody terrorism, particularly the terrorism unleashed by settlers who have been armed and given instructions to open fire on any Palestinian without consulting higher authority, constitutes a big obstacle to the peace process. This terrorism seriously aggravates the situation. We have already said that Rabin will only have himself to blame, because we will resist and confront this escalation with all available power. The UN Charter gives our people the right to use all means available to resist occupation. As you can see, despite the blockade and the deployment of thousands of troops to reinforce the occupation forces and despite the use of rockets, the demolition and setting houses on fire, and the wide scale arrests, there has been an escalation in our valiant people's intifadah. We will continue to escalate the confrontation and resistance; our people have no option but to resist the occupation.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] In light of the current Palestinian leadership meeting in Tunis under the chairmanship of 'Arafat and in light of the Palestinian delegation's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, can we say that the Palestinian delegation will participate in the next round of peace negotiations?

[Abu-Sharif] The expanded Palestinian leadership meetings are continuing. Brother Faysal al-Husayni has arrived in Tunis to present a report on his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher in Washington. The leadership will discuss the results of this meeting. What I can say now is that the search is still going on for ways and means to remove the obstacles blocking the next round of negotiations in Washington.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Will the final decision on Arab participation in the next round of peace talks be made in the next cordon states' meeting in the middle of this month?

[Abu-Sharif] The cordon states ministers will meet after President Husni Mubarak returns from Washington. Mubarak will convey to us the results of his important talks, which will focus on the Middle East peace process and other issues. There is no doubt that the results of this meeting plus the results we will reach in our bilateral contacts with the U.S. Administration will be under discussion at the meeting to adopt a common Arab decision on the upcoming round of bilateral negotiations in Washington.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much.

Factions Condemn PLO on Deportees, Peace Talks

JN0504183393 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 93

["Text" of "political statement" issued by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks; place and date not given]

[Text] The follow-up committee affiliated with the 10 Palestinian factions has held a meeting, during which it discussed the most recent political developments pertaining to our people's national issue. It also debated the heroic qualitative leap witnessed in our generous people's intifadah, the stepped-up campaigns of sieges and collective punishment, the racist Zionist repression and oppression, and the enemy government's engagement in acts of organized terrorism through arming settler gangs and allowing them to kill our people in a desperate bid to squash the intifadah and liquidate our people's rights.

The 10 Palestinian factions denounce and express their grave concern and fear about the persistence of the Tunis-based [PLO] leadership, which is currently meeting in Tunis, in lending a deaf ear to national consensus and to our people's wishes, which reject this course. These factions believe that the continued pursuit of a policy based on maneuvering and demagoguery by the Tunis-based leadership, its offering of further concessions, and its attempts to deceive our people and circumvent Resolution 799, which provides for the immediate and collective repatriation of the deportees, could overburden our Palestinian people in terms of shackling them with historical responsibilities toward the Arab-Zionist conflict—something which our people unanimously reject and are determined to thwart.

While rejecting this policy based on maneuvering and deception pursued by the Tunis-based leadership, which is currently jeopardizing the entire national issue, the 10 Palestinians factions call upon this leadership, in keeping with the wishes of our people inside and outside the occupied territories and also with the wishes of the deportees stranded in Marj al-Zuhur, who decided to accept nothing short of their immediate and collective repatriation, to declare its complete withdrawal from both the bilateral and multilateral negotiations and to opt for national consensus and national unity on the basis of a comprehensive national dialogue, given that such a dialogue could thwart the self-rule conspiracy; protect the escalating, blessed, and valiant intifadah in the occupied homeland; and safeguard the historic right of return of millions of our people in the diaspora.

In view of the serious juncture being experienced in the course of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy, which aims to liquidate the rights of our people and nation, the 10 Palestinian factions urge our people inside and outside the occupied territories to demonstrate a high degree of vigilance in order to halt the tampering and thwart the attempts at deception aimed at covering up for the delegation's participation in the next round of negotiations under various pretexts and excuses, in accordance with all U.S. and Zionist terms. Our people are also urged to abort this leadership's attempts to obscure the deportee issue and the deportees' repatriation, which is enshrined in international legitimacy, as stipulated by Resolution 799.

Consequently, the 10 Palestinian factions urge our people inside and outside the occupied territories to wage further struggle and to carry out additional activities as follows:

9 April must be observed as a day on which a strike must be staged. On that day, clashes in the occupied homeland must be stepped up.

15, 16 April must be observed as days during which the people of the occupied homeland must stage sit-ins before the houses of members of the Madrid-Washington team.

19, 20 April must be observed as days during which strikes must be staged. Furthermore, clashes in the occupied homeland must be stepped up on these two days.

During period 17-25 April, various mass activities must be staged in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and other parts of the Palestinian diaspora.

Glory to the valiant intifadah in the occupied homeland! Freedom to our prisoners and detainees held in the jails and cells of the occupation authorities! We salute the steadfastness of our fraternal mujahid deportees, who are stranded in Marj al-Zuhur. Immortality to the martyrs of our people and nation!

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

Hamas Urges End to Peace Talks Participation

JN0404110893 Amman SALT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
4 Apr 93 p 14

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has affirmed that the fierce and comprehensive war which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is waging against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will only lead to further escalation, more brave resistance, and painful military jihad operations in the very heart of the usurping occupier.

A Hamas statement said: Rabin's savage measures are a clear and open admission of the false promises he gave to the Zionists when he deported hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland, claiming that the deportations were designed to weaken the Palestinian resistance of occupation. However, Rabin is now facing stronger resistance, fiercer attacks, and a wider intifadah. The statement demanded a halt to the participation in the peace negotiations since they will lead to enemy persistence in killings, bloodshed, repression, demolition of houses, arrest campaigns, and deliberate encroachments on mosques.

The statement also demanded international protection for the Palestinian people against mass killings and the total siege imposed by the enemy's government. It indicated that the international community is now demanded to shoulder its humanitarian responsibilities toward the Palestinian people and to condemn and end

the Zionist policy. The statement urged the Palestinian people and their factions and forces to adhere to national unity and confront the attempts to sow discord and foment sedition, because national unity is the rock on which enemy conspiracies will founder. It also called for escalating the popular resistance and brave intifadah, and carrying out painful military operations which will press on the nerve of the Zionist occupation and undermine its very presence.

The statement added that Hamas and its jihad battalions will continue their distinguished escalation and jihad operations and will avenge the militant Palestinian people. It warned Rabin against persisting in his confused repressive policies, pointing out that this stupid behavior will not extinguish the flame of resistance and will inevitably lead to a tumultuous popular revolution.

Disappointment at Christopher Statement to Congress

LD0504205693 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1800 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Brothers, the Palestinians expressed their satisfaction on hearing U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher say during his visit to the region that America will play the role of an effective partner in the peace process between Arab sides and Israel. However, Palestinians and Arabs were disappointed when they heard Christopher's statement to Congress last Thursday. His statement included implicit signs of confrontation with the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Christopher reaffirmed his full support for Israel and ignored any mention of the obstacles and the difficulties facing the peace process. On the contrary, he urged the oil countries to end their trade boycott of Israel; he singled out Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Christopher's statement came at a time when there was a debate among Arab capitals and Palestinian consultations in Tunis to find a formula for participation in the ninth round of talks due to be held in Washington on 20 April.

Christopher's recent statement adds to the difficulties and obstacles that are in the way of the peace process. While the Arab sides want to see the co-sponsors of the peace process take the initiative to build bridges between the sides in the conflict, Christopher's statement affirmed that America, the sole superpower in the world, is behaving in a way that is blatantly biased toward Israel, and not as an honest sponsor that bears responsibility and endeavors to gain the trust of all the sides. It endeavors to gain the trust of one side and puts pressure on the other sides to submit to the will of that side. This is not the way to build the pillars of a just and comprehensive peace with which future generations in the region can live. [passage omitted]

Christopher Request To End Israel Boycott Criticized

PM0604090693 *London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic* 5 Apr 93 pl

[Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Christopher and His Gulf Blackmail"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's request that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait immediately end the Arab boycott of Israel and contribute to a fund to finance Boris Yeltsin and prevent his downfall, can only be described as something akin to blackmail, suggesting that Arab wealth is a strategic reserve for the United States and its world designs and that it can demand that wealth whenever it likes and give it to whomever it likes whenever it likes.

The new U.S. Administration, which has accused these two states of ingratitude and of failing to appreciate the favor the United States did them when it supported them at the time of the crisis of the Iraqi invasion, is, regrettably, the party against whom such charges should be made because it has broken the promises made to its Arab allies that it would immediately work for the implementation of all UN resolutions on Palestine as soon as the Iraqi forces were evicted from Kuwait. We are now into the third year since then but no UN resolution against Israel has been implemented, including the latest and least complicated resolution, namely Resolution 799 calling on the Hebrew state to repatriate the Palestinian deportees.

It is also disgraceful that the United States, which has led the opposition to any linkage between the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan, is the very same party now calling on the Gulf states to link the two issues and to end the Arab boycott as a way of returning the favor for their protection during the invasion crisis. Furthermore, its secretary of state utters a rebuking reminder of that protection.

We would probably have understood Washington making such demands if it had successfully sponsored peace negotiations resulting in Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and in the implementation of all relevant UN resolutions, but unfortunately it has not and it apparently has no intention of doing so. Every passing day confirms to us the complete U.S. partiality regarding Israel and complete disregard for us as an Arab nation, peoples, and regimes.

Ending the Arab boycott is not a decision to be made by Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. It is a collective Arab decision that only an Arab summit conference can make after the fulfillment of the necessary requirements, especially the ending of Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. The Arab boycott decision was made by the Arab League in 1951, 15 years before the West Bank and the Gaza strip were occupied.

Ending the boycott would mean "normalization" with Israel and it would mean losing the last Arab pressure card without even an inch of progress made in the peace process so far. What is worse, Israel continues its colonialist occupation with an iron fist, opening fire on children in the occupied Arab territories, intensifying its starvation blockade against 1 million Palestinians, and holding on to the Arab and Islamic holy places in holy Jerusalem.

We believe that these crude U.S. pressures aimed at blackmailing the Gulf states provide an opportunity to end the fragmentation, differences, and enmities now prevailing in the Arab region, and to call an urgent summit conference to discuss all Arab issues and make the necessary decisions about them.

Those harmed by friendship with the United States outnumber those harmed by hostility toward it. In fact, the "enemies" of the United States no longer have anything to lose. All the Arabs are now in the same boat facing U.S. contempt for all without exception. That provides a good ground for an [Arab] meeting, that is if there are any Arab leaders who care about the nation's interests.

At any rate, asking the Saudis and Kuwaitis to end the boycott is only the tip of the iceberg. It is a pointer to other demands and much greater pressures. The energy tax of up to \$10 for every barrel of oil exported to the West is only the beginning.

The root of the problem is this nation's disregard for some of its sons, which makes it a target for foreigners. When the nation accepts the blockade imposed against two Arab peoples [Iraqis and Libyans] on Washington's orders, and when it participates in the blockade against a third in the occupied territory whose only crime is that they resist, seek martyrdom, and defend their Arabism and sanctities, it is no wonder that Christopher demands an end to the boycott and it would even be no wonder if Arab and Islamic summit conferences were held in Jerusalem under the occupation, if there is any desire left to hold any such conferences.

Fatah Accuses Syria of Assassinating Members

NC0504182193 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, April 5 (AFP)—The Fatah wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday accused Syria of ordering murders of its members to force the PLO to resume peace talks with Israel.

Munir Maqdash, head of Fatah's armed wing, said in a statement published here that PLO members had been executed by the Fatah- Revolutionary Council of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna].

Maqdash said "gangs of the traitor Abu-Nidal" had "assassinated, on Syria's instructions, our leaders in order to force our people into accepting the Israeli conditions of the peace negotiations."

Algeria

Three Killed by Terrorists; Several Arrested

LD0504133693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The National Gendarmerie Command disclosed today that terrorist operations targeted a number of citizens in Boumerdes Province. This source pointed out that Mr. Rabia Brahim, chairman of the executive delegation of Ouled Hadjadj municipality in Boumerdes Province, was killed by terrorists yesterday. A driver at Sidi Daoud municipality in the same province was also killed. The terrorists also killed a retired army man, from the National People's Army, in Ouled Slama in Boumerdes Province.

Gendarmerie forces were able to arrest a number of people implicated in terrorist operations including Haddad Azzedine, an official at the Executive Bureau of the dissolved Islamic Front for Salvation [FIS] in Zeralda. He was charged with possessing subversive leaflets.

Another agitator who incited people to carry out terrorist operations in Tiaret Province was arrested by the National Gendarmerie forces. This man works as a legal clerk at the National Milk Office in Tiaret city. According to the National Gendarmerie Command he is one of the leading members of the dissolved FIS, named as 37-year-old Meherher Kada, who incited people to carry out several terrorist actions in Tiaret region and who is considered to be the mastermind of the terrorist network which was broken up about two months ago.

The National Gendarmerie Command reports that three terrorists tried to snatch a hunting rifle from a citizen and stormed his house in Ouled Draa, Ayn Defla. However, a number of citizens of the municipality rushed to his rescue and the aggressors were identified and are being tracked down by security forces.

RCD Accepts HSC Invitation for Dialogue

LD0304170193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The national broadcasting service today received a statement from the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] in which it defines its position towards the dialogue with the Higher State Council [HSC]. According to this statement, the RCD Executive Committee, after a meeting held yesterday to study the political situation in the country and consider the HSC's invitation to the dialogue, has decided to accept the invitation to consider its stances regarding the current challenges and pressures.

The RCD statement indicates that after long and in-depth consideration, the movement decided that it was its duty to challenge, what it called, the manoeuvres and provocations by some centers of power which are aimed at signing away the future of the country.

HSC's Kafi Confers With RCD Delegation

LD0404193193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic
1900 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Within the framework of its meetings with political parties, associations, and prominent figures, the Higher State Council, led by Ali Kafi, today received a delegation of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, led by Said Sa'adi. Talks focused on the agenda proposed by the Higher State Council. An identity of views emerged concerning commitment to national unity, republican and democratic values, and pluralism.

Employers' Confederation States Position on Dialogue

LD0304160293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Excerpt] In preparation for the expected meeting with the Higher State Council on 6 April and in order to assess the results of the meeting between the National Employers' Confederation and the head of government on 13 March, Mr. Ait Mouahab, chairman of the Algerian Employers' Confederation, held a news conference this morning at the El-Djazair Hotel, which was attended by my colleague Amal Maddah:

[Maddah] Mr. Ait Mouahab, chairman of the Algerian Employers' Confederation, in his answers to journalists' questions which concentrated on the main points of the talks with the government, said that the absence of an agenda for our meeting with the government which we have been awaiting for eight months, and the poor preparation of this meeting hindered the holding of a responsible and constructive dialogue.

However, he added that the position of the Confederation is well-known and that is namely the setting up of a social front capable of drawing up a program which would get the country out of its economic crisis. He affirmed that the dialogue has not achieved its aims because of the position which the government has adhered to and its insistence on continuing its policy aimed at controlling economic activity and thus marginalizing the private sector, leaving it stagnating until 1995.

Mr. Ait Mouahab considers the meeting with the government a failure, and said the responsibility rests with Mr. Reda Hamiani, the minister delegate for small and medium industries, who was tasked with preparing this meeting.

Mr. Ait Mouahab hopes that the points of disagreement between the Confederation and the government will be settled at their meeting with the Higher State Council on 6 April. [passage omitted]

Russian Envoy Halls Meeting With HSC's Ali Kafi

LD0504201893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, today received in the presidential office Boris Kolokolov, Russian deputy foreign minister and personal envoy of President Yeltsin. The meeting was attended by the Baba Ali, the council's adviser on diplomatic affairs, and Russia's ambassador to Algiers. The Russian envoy made the following statement after the meeting:

[Begin Kolokolov recording, in French with superimposed Arabic translation] I was lucky to meet my friend the leader of this great country. We were ambassadors in Tunis at the same time and we had a special friendship. At our meeting we talked about many issues. I would like to say that there are no problems between the two countries, and there are possibilities for cooperation in various fields: economic, political and so on. Therefore, our views are quite close, and this is important for Russia which shoulders big political responsibilities in the world in view of its permanent membership of the [UN] Security Council.

I gave a personal letter to President Ali Kafi from his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin. It was a friendly letter in which President Yeltsin expressed his readiness to bolster relations between the two countries. [end recording]

Boris Kolokolov signed an agreement on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between Algeria and Russia at the Foreign Ministry today. The agreement was signed by the director general of the Foreign Ministry on behalf of Algeria.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Rahman Asks To Live in Sudan if Deported

NC0504123493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (MENA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS reports that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has secretly contacted the Sudanese Government and asked to be allowed to move to and reside in Sudan if he is deported from the United States.

Quoting security sources, AL-QABAS says Iran has mediated with the Sudanese Government to allow 'Abd-al-Rahman to reside in Khartoum, where he lived before going to the United States.

Reportage on President Mubarak's Foreign Travels

Speaks to Community in London

PM0604104293 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3-4 Apr 93 p 1

[Farid al-Khatib and Khalid al-Shami reports: "Christopher Accuses Gulf States of Ingratitude. Mubarak: We Have Asked Kuwait To Withdraw From Damascus Declaration"]

[Excerpt] Washington, London—Warren Christopher has accused Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of ingratitude and called on them to end the Arab boycott of Israel and to finance Russian President Boris Yeltsin's democratic and economic reforms.

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has confirmed that Egypt had asked Kuwait to revoke the Damascus Declaration after its implementation was obstructed.

At his meeting with the Egyptian community in London Friday afternoon, the president said that "Egypt is well aware that Iran's desire to dominate the Gulf was one of the obstacles facing that declaration."

He added that "Egypt does not just sacrifice its sons. They are its most precious asset. When they went to the Gulf, it was not at the request of any foreign powers but rather at the request of Saudi Arabia and the Emirates in accordance with the Arab Joint Defense Pact."

The president stressed that "Iran was alarmed when we signed the agreement [Damascus Declaration] because it was well aware of Egypt's political and military weight in the region."

He said: "When we signed the agreement, we viewed Gulf security as a strategic extension of our own security and an important part of Arab security." He added: "We do not want this current controversy about the (Damascus) Declaration. That is why I told the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly when he visited Egypt recently that they [the Kuwaitis] can withdraw from it or abolish it because we were not out to make money from it."

The president revealed that "Iran previously tried to establish diplomatic relations with Egypt but then its foreign minister backtracked and said that they only wanted (a cultural bureau) which made the Egyptian authorities suspicious."

The president emphasized that Iran was training terrorists in Sudan "under the cover of farm work" and sending them over across al-Sallum and "when Egypt prevented many of them from crossing, they became desperate and planned the recent series of explosions."

Mubarak added: "They are now using young people returning from Afghanistan across the Pakistani borders, which are open with no control."

In reply to a question by AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI after the meeting, about the chances of Arab reconciliation, the president emphasized that "the revival of Arab cooperation and solidarity requires time to heal the (painful wound) of the Gulf war." He added that "the Gulf war was a tragic event in our history but Arab solidarity must be restored with time."

On the Hala'ib problem, the Egyptian president said that Egypt does not want a dispute with Sudan. He said: "I wish to tell those who talk about the possibility of Egypt going to war with Sudan over Hala'ib that Egyptian and Sudanese troops eat their meals together. All the Egyptian Government did so far was to put up a sign with two arrows on it, one pointing to Sudan and the other to Egypt." Mubarak accused the Sudanese Government of trying to raise this border dispute in a way which sometimes leads to escalation.

At the domestic level, the president stressed that Egypt has made significant economic achievements, as testified by international organizations. He added: "Egypt now, and for the first time, has a hard currency surplus of \$14.5 billion. Our exports last year reached 3 billion pounds and we have made long strides towards self-sufficiency, having reclaimed about 1 million feddans of desert over the past 10 years." [passage omitted]

Meets With U.S Senator Mitchell

NC0504155993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, 5 Apr (MENA)—Senator George Mitchell, leader of the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate, expressed his and Congress members' great appreciation of President Husni Mubarak.

Speaking to Mubarak today, the senator said he was sorry Congress was in recess and that he wished members could have met him on his visit to Washington.

The president replied, thanking Mitchell for his sentiments. He said he would visit the United States again when he comes to New York to deliver Africa's speech at the UN General Assembly in September. The president said he hoped that then, he could meet Congress members he was unable to meet this time.

Musa on Upcoming Clinton Meeting

NC0504175493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, 5 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak's current visit to the United States and his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and other administration officials will open wide horizons for establishing clearer and more positive relations of cooperation between

Egypt and the United States. He affirmed the importance of these relations, whether on the bilateral or regional and international levels, especially regarding the Middle East peace process.

In a statement today, Musa said Mubarak's visit comes during an important period for the Middle East and the world in general. The visit comes on the heels of the U.S.-Russian summit in Vancouver. It also follows a period of intensive Arab consultations which Mubarak held before departing on his tour. These consultations included direct meetings by Mubarak with Saudi King Fahd, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

Musa explained that Mubarak's talks in Washington will focus on the Middle East peace process and its prospects. He noted that the talks come in the wake of the U.S. Administration's announcement that it is ready to play the role of a full partner in the coming phases of the peace process.

Musa said Mubarak has held contacts with several U.S. officials and congressional leaders since arriving in Washington yesterday. These contacts will culminate in Mubarak's meeting tomorrow with President Clinton. He noted that Mubarak is eager to strengthen the bases of cooperation between Egypt and the United States. Several factors govern these bases, some bilateral and others regional and international. There also is cooperation to push the peace process forward.

Musa said that during his meeting with Clinton, Mubarak will explain the Palestinian viewpoint at the request of the Palestinians themselves, especially in regard to the course of the negotiations and the elements that ensure progress in these talks.

Musa noted that before embarking on his tour, Mubarak held a telephone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. In answer to a question, however, Musa explained that it has not been decided whether to hold a meeting soon between Mubarak and Rabin, although the idea exists.

Musa expressed hope that the next round of bilateral peace talks will be held as scheduled on 20 April. He hinted, however, that this depends on several factors—including progress toward resolving the deportees issue—so that the Palestinians can feel secure inside the occupied territories and at the negotiating table.

Confers With Christopher

NC0504211593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1952 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, 5 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that President Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a round of talks today in preparation for Mubarak's meeting tomorrow with President Bill Clinton. He said Mubarak and Christopher

reviewed the peace efforts in the region and the prospects for convening the next round of talks on 20 April. He said Mubarak and Christopher voiced the hope that all parties, including the Palestinians, will attend the negotiations on schedule, because obstructing the talks will gravely affect everyone, complicate the peace process, and make future efforts to revive it difficult. He pointed out that they also discussed the situations in the Middle East, the Gulf, the Horn of Africa, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Al-Baz said the president of Azerbaijan contacted Mubarak today before he met with Christopher and asked him to raise the Azerbaijani issue now that an Armenian Army unit has captured a pass near Nagorno-Karabakh. He noted that Mubarak broached the issue with Christopher out of concern for maintaining stability in the region and preventing the situation from deteriorating. He noted that Mubarak and Christopher also discussed the Libyan situation in view of the upcoming 15 April deadline set by the UN Security Council for Libya to respond to the West's demands in accordance with the Security Council resolution.

Al-Baz said the two leaders discussed the situation in Lebanon and the importance of trying to stabilize the situation so the government can control all of Lebanon and ensure the Israelis' withdrawal. He said they also touched on terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa, Iran's role, and the terrorist bases in Afghanistan and Sudan. They reviewed bilateral ties in light of U.S. concern not to decrease the size of its aid to Egypt. He noted that contacts are under way with France because Mubarak is likely to stop over in France on his way home. He said that the venue and date of Mubarak's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have not yet been set.

Musa on Importance of Trip

NC0604062793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2202 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has underlined the importance of President Husni Mubarak's current tour of Germany; Britain; the United States; and, possibly, France. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari to be published on 6 April, he said that during this important working tour President Mubarak discussed bilateral economic and technical cooperation, exchanged views, and reviewed international issues and Third World development problems.

Musa said that President Mubarak's tour is primarily a working one and is an opportunity to get acquainted with U.S. President Bill Clinton. He noted that the Mubarak-Clinton meeting takes place in important circumstances, noting that the meeting follows the Vancouver summit between President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin and intensive Arab efforts to maintain and advance the peace process. He pointed out that the meeting between Presidents Clinton and

Mubarak follows efforts by Cairo and President Mubarak, personally, with several Arab leaders to coordinate their position on the peace talks, particularly after the U.S. Administration declared that it will play the role of a full partner in the peace process.

Musa expressed his hope that the next round of peace talks will begin on schedule, noting that this hinges on several factors, most importantly the need to make clear the progress and result of the peace process and the need to reassure the Palestinian party of the prospects for progress in the negotiations. He pointed out that the resumption of the negotiations depends on making some progress in solving the deportees issue so that the Palestinians in the occupied territories feel reassured. He stressed that the peace process requires a favorable atmosphere, particularly in the occupied territories. This, he said, can be done by respecting the Geneva Convention regarding civilian population under occupation.

Minister Briefs Press on Talks

NC0604092193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT
6 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, 6 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the peace process is a basic issue to which Egypt pays special attention. He said the deportees issue must not be raised as the principal issue, relegating the peace process to the position of a secondary problem, because the efforts to solve the deportees problem have been unproductive. The Palestinian issue must not become hostage to a secondary problem.

He said the talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher dealt with the peace process and the deportees problem, adding that the U.S. Administration held contacts with Israel and that they reached an agreement which remains valid.

Musa told correspondents that Egypt is trying to find a solution to the deportees problem to ensure the resumption of the negotiations. Contacts are being held with the U.S. Administration and Israel to achieve this objective, emphasizing that the resumption of the peace process and the negotiations and the Palestinians' participation are important issues and surpass in their importance, essence, and results all other negative aspects.

The foreign minister said the establishment of settlements and the Israeli position on Jerusalem did not hinder the negotiations. He asked: How could anything less important hinder them? He said no other Palestinian element or factor could surpass the Palestinian people's right to return.

Musa said Egyptian-Israeli contacts will resume within a few days but explained that the level and means for these contacts have not been determined.

The foreign minister said Egypt will also hold contacts with the PLO, noting that the results of President Mubarak's U.S. visit will be raised on the Arab level when the president returns to Cairo.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is scheduled to leave Paris on Thursday for Morocco, carrying a message from President Mubarak to King Hassan II. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, will also leave for Tunis to meet Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Musa said he had four telephone conversations with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in the past two days to facilitate the negotiation process. 'Arafat is also expected to visit Cairo with several Palestinian leaders next week.

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine will meet in Damascus on 14 April.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the progress made in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations was more than expected, but he said that Israel must withdraw from the Golan in exchange for full peace. "This formula needs a lot of effort," he said.

Musa emphasized the need to progress and reach solutions on the four tracks of the peace negotiations.

He said peace can now be imagined to be near, but this possibility needs to be emphasized and the idea defined; this (?needs dialogue.)

He said peace must be comprehensive, taking the region from war and instability to peace. He said the U.S. Administration is determined to play its role as enthusiastically as the previous Administration. It is ready for the role of an honest broker and full partner, "which is important to reassure all the sides."

On Iran and terrorism in the region, the foreign minister said Egypt cannot tolerate attempts to create regional tension and chaos through terrorism and the false use of religion. "Terrorist acts can never be allowed. An end will be put to terrorism," he said.

On terrorism in the region and the world in general, Musa said that all sides must cooperate to confront it. "We are discussing this with other countries," he said, adding that the aim is not to get the world together to confront terrorism in Egypt but to encourage the world to cooperate against terrorism everywhere.

The foreign minister said terrorist operations do not threaten the security of the state but horrify civilians and damage their property. Noting that Algeria and Zambia broke off relations with Iran and that the Tunisian foreign minister canceled a scheduled visit to Tehran, Musa said regional terrorism cannot be accepted. He said terrorist acts will be faced by an extremely tough position.

The foreign minister said President Mubarak will raise the crisis between Armenia and Azerbaijan during his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton. He said he held a telephone conversation with the Azerbaijani president to convey to him a message from President Mubarak. He

said moves to handle the situation can be made at the level of the Security Council.

On Libya's problem with some Western countries, 'Amr Musa said discussions continue, "with Egypt trying to stop any escalation and solve the problem in line with international resolutions."

Teachers Return From Sudan, Report 'Popular Wrath'

NC0504193593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1851 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Ninety teachers and administrative employees working in Egyptian educational missions in Sudan returned to Cairo today. The returnees, who worked in primary schools in Khartoum, stressed that living conditions in Sudan are poor and that popular wrath against the regime has been rife, particularly following Sudan's takeover of Cairo University's Khartoum campus. They said that they refused attempts by Sudanese officials to persuade them to renew their contracts.

Iran Operating 5 Training Camps for 'Extremists'

NC0504154893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Security bodies have received serious information about an Iranian-Sudanese scheme to overthrow regimes in some Arab states, particularly Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia. Available information affirms that the Tehran regime has set up five camps to train Arab extremists who fought with the Afghan mujahidin. The camps are located in the Iranian areas of Ahvaz, Mahmarah [Khorramshahr], Abadan, Bakhtaran, and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab.

There is information that the Iranian authorities are training over 9,000 Arab extremists in these camps to blow up booby-trapped cars in sensitive areas. "Liberation teams" have been set up in these camps to overthrow regimes. Arab extremists are being trained in the use of weapons and explosives, gathering political, economic, and military information, forging documents and currencies, and recruiting agents. The camps are supervised by Ahvaz Intelligence Officer Ahmad Marzandeh. [name and title as published]

There is information that contacts are maintained between Tehran and loyal elements in Arab states to set up underground Hizballah branches in these states. The Iranian intelligence apparatus holds training courses for Arab extremists in the Islamic Center for Political Studies in Tehran, where the principles of the Iranian revolution are taught.

The Iranian authorities have also started to operate radio stations in Sudan beamed to North Africa. These radios call on the people to overthrow the ruling regimes.

Iranian media are defending extremists who are implicated in terrorist operations in Egypt and Algeria, calling them "Islamic revolutionaries."

Egyptian security bodies are monitoring the movements of the Iranian diplomatic mission, led by 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi, and their contacts with extremist elements to determine Iranian involvement in recent terrorist operations.

People's Assembly Denounces Iranian 'Terrorism'

NC0504135493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—The People's Assembly Arab Relations Committee has denounced the Iranian regime's support for terrorism. The committee called on Iran's rulers to stop interfering in Egypt's internal affairs and to stop exporting terrorism and attempting to impose its designs and ideologies by force and terrorism.

In a statement after a meeting today chaired by Dr. Tulbah 'Uwaydah, the committee emphasized that the Egyptian nation stands as one rank behind President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to eliminate terrorism and terrorists. The committee also affirmed that the domestic front is secure so economic reform and investment ventures in Egypt can be supported.

Arrest of Egyptian by Sudan Called 'Reckless'

NC0204203493 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Apr 93
p 1

[Text] The 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir regime has arrested Bahjat al-Shurbaji, head of the Egyptian community in Sudan, without any reason. The Sudanese regime stipulated that he will be released only if eight Sudanese detained in Egypt on charges of involvement in recent acts of terrorism are set free. Former Sudanese Foreign Minister Faruq Abu-'Isa condemned this behavior by al-Bashir government, describing it as reckless and inhuman, saying it comes within the framework of repeated violations of human rights.

'Limited Reshuffle' Said To Replace Interior Minister

NC0404071593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid]

[Text] Informed sources have disclosed that an upcoming limited reshuffle of the government will replace Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa. The sources affirm that President Mubarak, before leaving for Europe and the United States, received four senior Interior Ministry officers who have been nominated for the post. They include Major General Mustafa Kamil, governor of al-Daqahliyah and former chief of the State Security Investigation Department; Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, chief of security in al-Gharbiyah; and a senior state security officer.

The sources note that the reason for this reshuffle is the interior minister's failure to stop acts of violence and determine the perpetrators despite the availability of all the resources necessary to confront them.

The sources add that Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has disappeared from the scene during the past few days. He has been absent from important People's Assembly sessions, particularly those focusing on corruption among senior Interior Ministry officers.

Police Seize 139 Forged Passports From 'Militants'

NC0204163293 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, April 2 (AFP)—Police raiding a home in a community north of the Egyptian capital seized more than 100 forged passports made for Muslim militants, authorities said Friday.

Investigators tried to identify the fundamentalists through photos on the 139 passports seized from the home in al-Daqahliya and stepped up searches in the Nile delta, police said.

The passports which bore false names were to allow fundamentalists to leave "for Sudan and other countries," a police spokesman said.

Egyptian officials regularly accuse Sudan and Iran of sponsoring Muslim militants in Egypt.

Libya

Editor Responds to Remarks From UK's Hurd

LD0304125693 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayir 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In a statement in London last Wednesday, the British foreign secretary said that his government was not seeking to create trouble for Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi and his regime.

JANA's political editor commented on this statement, saying:

The regime in Libya is a jamahiri one based on people's power exercised through people's congresses in the communes. It seems that the West are still intellectually backward as far as the achievements realised by the jamahiri society are concerned where the people exercise power directly in the communes through a people's congress which decides and a people's committee which executes such decisions. Accordingly, in the Great Jamahiriya, there is not one single person outside these congresses.

The editor added: This wonderful jamahiri regime depends in its entrenchment and existence on the people for the latter is eternal. Experience showed that despite persistent plots against the Libyan Arab people and

attempts to destroy its achievements, these attempts which reached the extent of armed aggression, the Libyan Arab people remained steadfast and its jamahiri regime continued consolidating and strengthening.

The editor stressed that the survival of the jamahiri regime is in the hands of the people and not in the hands of anyone else and that the historical role of Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, was confined to the creation of this regime through the third universal theory and the glorious dicta of the Green Book. Accordingly, he instigates and guides the masses enabling them to enjoy total power ending all forms of rule based on deputation and representation whatever its instruments may be.

Foreign Minister Meets Zimbabwean Counterpart

LD0504140893 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation today met in Tripoli with Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriya.

During their meeting, they reviewed and discussed bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriya and Zimbabwe, and a number of African issues. They also discussed issues of Arab-African cooperation and ways of confronting the challenges facing the African continent under the shadow of international changes. [passage omitted]

Cultural Agreement Signed With Spanish Group

LD0304140393 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] An agreement between the Great Jamahiriya's Center for Mediterranean Studies and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Madrid was signed in Tripoli last night within the framework of improving cultural and scientific cooperation and contacts in all spheres between the Mediterranean countries.

A number of other memorandums of understanding on the setting up of joint studies on various scientific subjects as well as exchanging expertise on medical, scientific, economic, agriculture, water, and development matters and all other issues of interest to the two peoples, were initialled.

Mauritania

Tunisian President Arrives for Official Visit

AB0504181893 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1430 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia, has just arrived in Nouakchott for a two-day official visit to Mauritania.

The visit is at the invitation of the president of the Republic, Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The head of state, who welcomed him on his descent from the plane, was flanked by Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker, the president of the Senate and speaker of the National Assembly, respectively, Dieng Boubou Farba and Cheick Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba. There were also the walid [traditional chief] of Nouakchott, the mayor of the municipality, and the Tunisian ambassador to Mauritania, His Excellency Mohamed H'Sairi. [passage omitted]

According to our colleague Mocktar Ould Yani, the president of the Tunisian Republic said he was pleased to step on Mauritanian soil at the invitation of his brother, President Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The visit, he said, was in line with the secular relations of brotherhood that unite the two peoples. After paying tribute to the enlightened leadership of the president of the Republic, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said he would have the opportunity to hold discussions with President Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on the development of bilateral relations in order to give them a new impetus and raise them to the same level as Maghreb relations. It will also be an opportunity to review Arab and international issues, the Tunisian president said. Concerning the Arab Maghreb Union, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali remarked that the setting up of every organization needs time. [passage omitted]

President, Ben Ali Hold Talks

LD0604095893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Excerpt] We begin with a review of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's official visit to Mauritania. The two presidents, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, yesterday held a private meeting at the residence of his excellency the president, which dealt with issues of common interest at the bilateral, Maghreb, Arab, and international levels.

The president's spokesman reported that the two presidents affirmed their joint concern to continue consultations in consolidation of the kinship between the two fraternal peoples, which the two countries' desire so as to strengthen links in various spheres, and to develop cooperation between them. The official spokesman added that the two presidents dealt with developing the Arab Maghreb Union; efforts exerted to safeguard this young entity; moves that will fulfil the aspirations of the Maghreb peoples through the consolidation of the Union's bases and put its plans into effect; confronting the challenges facing these peoples; and establish cooperation and integration links with other regional groupings.

The official spokesman pointed out that the two presidents discussed the means for securing the development, security, stability and progress of the Maghreb peoples. In this context they touched on the crisis existing between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and some Western countries. President Ben Ali affirmed the determination of the Union's

Presidency to continue efforts to find a peaceful, honorable and just solution to this crisis.

The official spokesman reported that the talks also dealt with the Palestinian question and the need to find a just solution which secures for the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, a matter which calls on the international group to consider that the security and stability of the region is conditional on such a solution. The two presidents also emphasized the need of the Palestinian deportees to return in accordance with Security Council Resolution No. 799.

The two presidents also touched on the Somali question and expressed their satisfaction at UN efforts to restore the situation to normal in this fraternal country, affirming, on the other hand, the need to intensify efforts in connection with the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina by ending the racial cleansing policy.

Concerning the situation in Africa, the two presidents touched on the democratic changes currently taking place in numerous countries, and affirmed their interest in respect for human rights and the elimination of the last strongholds of apartheid in South Africa.

The talks were later expanded to include the foreign ministers of the two countries. These talks dealt with the fraternal and cooperation links existing between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Party Says al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's Life 'in Danger'

NC0504195493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1913 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese Ummah Party has appealed to the international community and supporters of human rights to intervene and save the life of Ummah Party leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and secure his release.

A statement issued by the Ummah Party office today said the arrest of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi this morning by the Sudanese military regime's security services defies legitimate democracy. This is because al-Mahdi is the leader of the largest political and Islamic entity [kiyan] in Sudan. He has publicly aired his views about the human rights violations taking place in Sudan.

The statement said everyone knows about the repression and killing of opponents; therefore, there are valid reasons to believe that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's life is in danger.

The statement noted that a force from the security services, led by Captain Salah Sagah and Lieutenant al-Muslami, arrested al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the elected and legitimate prime minister, who was overthrown in a

military coup on 30 June 1989. Following that coup, al-Mahdi was arrested for three months and then placed under house arrest.

Former Prime Minister al-Mahdi Reportedly Arrested

NC0504181493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1559 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] London, 5 Apr (MENA)—Al-Harith Idris, director of the Sudanese Ummah Party office in London, has disclosed that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the Ummah Party, was arrested today at his home in the al-Mulazimin neighborhood of Omdurman. 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Nur, former minister of state for industry and governor of Kurdufan, and 'Ali Madbu—two of his aides who were visiting him at his home this morning—also were arrested.

In a statement to MENA's London correspondent, Idris said Sudanese security authorities also arrested a number of youths who were visiting al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's son, 'Abd-al-Rahman. Tirab Tandal, Abu-Bakr Ibrahim, and 'Abd-al-Rahman Salih—three of 'Abd-al-Rahman's aides—also were arrested but later released.

Idris said the arrests were made by a group of security officers who head torture squads in Sudan's ghost houses, or prisons. They took al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to an unknown location, where he was interrogated. The results of the questioning are not known.

MENA's correspondent has learned that it was al-Mahdi's wife who contacted the Ummah Party office in London to report her husband's arrest.

Groups Unite Under Riak Machar; Declare Cease-Fire

AB0504162093 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Excerpt] NAIROBI, April 5 (AFP) - Three Sudanese rebel factions on Monday [5 April] declared a ceasefire and called for peace talks with the government to end a 10-year war that has devastated the famine-stricken south.

The three factions said they had united under the command of Riak Machar, who broke away two years ago from the leadership of John Garang, founder of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

They also issued a "final appeal" to Garang's group to merge with them. Fighting between Garang's forces and those of Riak has curtailed relief operations in two southern towns in the heart of the famine zone.

The other two groups now under Riak are led by William Nyuon Bany, Garang's former second-in-command, and Kerubino Kuanyin Bol, a former senior SPLA commander who escaped a few months ago after being imprisoned for six years by Garang.

"We believe that the present war cannot be won militarily," the three faction leaders said in a joint statement. They said they had declared an immediate unilateral ceasefire and called for "a comprehensive peace settlement."

"We are ready to open peace talks with the government," they said. Lam Akol, a senior member of Riak's 'Nasir' faction, said they would attend planned talks between the government and Garang in Nigeria next month if invited.

The government has said all groups should take part.

An SPLA spokesman in Cairo recently said Garang would not attend the talks unless Sudanese leader General 'Umar al-Bashir also did so, and that Garang has rejected participation of the dissident factions. His 'Torit' faction of the SPLA has described them as instruments of the military junta in Khartoum. [passage omitted on background material]

Al-Bashir Affirms Hala'ib 'Sudanese Territory'

JN0604100393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT
6 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, has asserted that Hala'ib is Sudanese territory and will remain so. He said: We will not sell out an inch of Hala'ib.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, issued here today, cites a report by the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, which it has obtained, as saying that al-Bashir has asserted that the Egyptian rulers seek to preoccupy Sudan by fabricating marginal battles, thinking that by so doing Sudan's demands to gain full sovereignty over Hala'ib area will stop. Al-Bashir added: Sudan has irreversibly rid itself of both the humiliating relief aid and the subservience to foreigners. Sudan rejects any bargain in return for relief aid, he said.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir pointed out that development in southern Sudan will not cease, particularly after all capabilities were mobilized to achieve its objectives. He warned against desperate attempts by some parties to halt this development.

Commentary on Mubarak, Training Egyptian Opposition

EA0304131093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service
Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Egyptian officials are once again trying to involve Sudan in what does not concern it, as is their habit whenever the thermometer of the people's revolution over there rises. The accusation that Sudan is training Egyptian opposition elements has already been denied by the Egyptian minister of interior, who is entrusted with protecting the regime from the growing tide of Jihad

on the Egyptian streets. He occupies the hottest seat in [Egyptian Prime Minister] Sadiq's Cabinet. This task alone is adequate to impart to his dear pal the undoubted truth: We have no proof of Sudan's involvement in acts that violate the security of Egypt.

His statement was followed by those from a number of other Egyptian officials which denied the false accusation which no longer finds attentive ears in Egypt or anywhere else. Those who circulated that rumor were exposed in the course of time. It was proven to all that the disturbances and troubles being witnessed by Egypt in Asyut, Aswan, (Umm Baba), Alexandria, Qalyubiya, (Suhaj) and lately in the heart of the Egyptian capital are something which concerns it and it alone.

The senior Egyptian official [Mubarak] should have looked around him as he was leaving Cairo [for his current visits to London and Washington] amidst the smoke rising from explosives and the sound of bullets and bombs. Perhaps he already knew the source of the revolution and its causes before going to the capitals of the West to complain falsely to their leaders about what Sudan and Iran have done to him, as if Europe and America will protect him from drowning when the hour of drowning comes.

The Egyptian president told THE TIMES [of London] after his meeting with John Major, the British prime minister, that Sudan, and with it Iran, are still training terrorists to destabilize Egypt and that it was possible to identify 17 training camps for fundamentalists in Sudan, which are being closely monitored.

This was what was broadcast by the London radio yesterday, citing the British newspaper THE TIMES, which published the statement by President Mubarak.

However, another British newspaper, which is more influential, namely THE INDEPENDENT, said in an editorial on the same day as Mubarak arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, that the situation in Egypt was sliding into mystery [ghumud], that President Mubarak faces danger with the increasing strength of the Islamists and that the companions of President Mubarak are now planning to leave him when the promised day comes. It went on to say that it was no secret that the United States is currently holding contacts with the Islamists just as the Islamic groups have also endeavored to contact America and another Arab state. It is as if THE INDEPENDENT, this widely read British newspaper, by this frank article, wanted to say to the president of the Egyptian regime: no good will come of your tour, by which you want to consolidate the pillars of your rule, whose days are numbered. Many leaders before you were not saved by their friendships with the West when the hour of seriousness came. And this hour is undoubtedly coming.

Victory to the people of the Nile Valley in Egypt and Sudan. Shame and disgrace to the enemies of Arabism and Islam.

Sudan To Pay Local Costs of Eritrean Referendum

EA0304215593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad Ali Amr, the representative of the Provisional Government of Eritrea in Khartoum, has commended the stand of the Sudanese Government towards the current preparations for the referendum on Eritrean self-determination scheduled for 23 to 25 April.

Mr. Amr said the Sudanese Government would bear all the costs of the referendum inside Sudan. His excellency pointed out that the preparations for the referendum were continuing satisfactorily and that so far about 150,000 Eritreans [in Sudan] had been registered. He pointed out that registration would continue in order to cover all Eritreans in different parts of Sudan to enable them to contribute to self-determination.

He said that Mr. 'Abd-al-Hadi (Toron), the UN information representative in Khartoum, had been chosen to supervise the international observation of the referendum in Sudan.

Concerning the period following the referendum and self-determination, the Provisional Eritrean Government's representative in Sudan said that a draft constitution and a draft law on parties would be drawn up and the Eritrean people would be given the opportunity for a referendum on this as a prelude to forming an elected government and a parliament to run the affairs of the country.

Al-Bashir Denies Existence of Racism, Starvation

EA0204213993 Khartoum SUNA in English 1623 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Apr (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has affirmed in the mass rally at al-Faw town, Rahad province, that the national salvation revolution will go ahead for restoration of the just peace and comprehensive development. The RCC chairman has asserted that the Armed Forces, People's Defence

Forces, and the unified police are able to achieve peace in the country. He further affirmed that the Sudanese have [endured] the difficulties for the sake of dignity and independence.

Gen al-Bashir meanwhile has denied existence of any racial discrimination or starvation in the Sudan, saying that these are but false allegations being circulated by western media against the Sudan's civilised orientation. The RCC chairman added that the outlaw John Garang, who previously refused to sit at the negotiating table, is now asking for cease-fire agreement with the government.

Al-Bashir Tells Council About Trip to Libya

EA0504151093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0944 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 5 April (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, has presented a briefing to the Council of Ministers over his recent visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. Al-Bashir praised warm reception he received in Tunisia en route to Libya as well as the hostility [as received] of the Libyan people during the visit, adding that the leaderships of the two countries are endeavouring to bolster bilateral relations so as to confront the challenges facing the progress of development in the two countries.

He said that the visit was a good chance for consultations about the successes achieved in the framework of the integration between the countries, adding that they agreed upon formation of a Sudanese-Libyan common committee. Gen al-Bashir added that the common committee will discuss the integration process and means of boosting the unity work, under co-chairmanship of deputy chairman of the RCC, Maj-Gen Zubayr Muhammad Salih, and member of the historical leadership of the Libyan revolution, Maj Abd al-Salam Jallud. He said the Libyan delegation will arrive Khartoum during this month to follow up the work of the committee. [passage omitted]

GCC Ministers Meet To Discuss Regional Issues*NC0504212293 Paris AFP in English 2041 GMT 5 Apr 93*

[Text] Riyadh, April 5 (AFP) - Gulf foreign ministers Monday warned against what they said were continuing Iraqi and Iranian threats to the security of the oil-rich Gulf.

In a statement ending a two-day meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the ministers also backed the resumption of the stalled peace talks between Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

The GCC ministers—representing Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman—urged the international community to “maintain pressure” on Iraq and force it to apply Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

It blamed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime for the suffering of the Iraqi people, who have endured a UN economic embargo since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The Gulf ministers also repeated their “total support for the United Arab Emirates in all peaceful measures” it uses to recover sovereignty from three strategic Gulf islands—Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb.

Iran also claims sovereignty over them.

The ministers denounced Iranian conditions for renewing negotiations over the islands and said Tehran's attitude “threatens security and stability in the region.”

They also supported the Arab-Israeli peace talks on the bases of UN resolutions urging Israel to give up Arab lands, and paid tribute to the U.S. commitment to be a full partner in the talks.

They also urged the UN Security Council to “take the necessary measures” to enforce its Resolution 799, calling for the immediate return of all the Palestinians deported to Lebanon last December.

They also “examined the U.S. request to end the Arab boycott of Israel,” GCC officials said later. This issue will be on the agenda at a meeting of Gulf businessmen on April 20-21 in Washington, they said.

And the ministers urged officials attending an oil producers meeting in Muscat, Oman next week to take up the issue of proposed U.S. and European energy taxes.

The taxes would deal a heavy blow to the oil producing economies of the Gulf.

Ministers Issue Communiqué*LD0504223393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Apr 93*

[Text] Their highnesses and excellencies the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers ended the proceedings of their ministerial meeting in its 46th session at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Council in Riyadh.

The Ministerial Council issued at the end of its session a press communiqué, which was read by His Excellency GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim bin Sultan al-Qasimi.

The Council welcomed His Excellency Shaykh Fahim bin Sultan al-Qasimi as GCC Secretary General and expressed its great consideration for the great efforts made by His Excellency 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, the former GCC Secretary General. [Word indistinct] the developments of the situation on the regional and international arenas and recorded with great interest and anxiety the continuation of threats to the independence and security of the State of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime as well as its repeated aggressions and violations of the sacredness of the international borders between the two countries and the fact that it put peace and stability in the region in danger as well as its continuation of the policy of procrastination and delaying tactics in implementing UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions related to its aggression against the State of Kuwait.

The Council condemns strongly the hostile policies and practices of the Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait and its attempts to escape its international commitments in accordance to the cease-fire conditions. It reaffirms its firm stance regarding the necessity for Iraq to implement all the resolutions of the UNSC and all the articles of Resolution 687.

The Council reviewed the developments of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the issue of the three islands: Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb, which belong to the UAE. It expressed its great regret and anxiety regarding the unacceptable conditions laid down by the Iranian side for resuming talks on the three islands, a matter which harms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the UAE, and its refusal to comply with the UN secretary general's efforts in this respect. The ministerial council affirms its complete condemnation and rejection of Iran's claims regarding Abu Musa Island and the measures it carried out considering that they threaten security and stability in the region.

The Council reiterates its call to the Islamic Republic of Iran to cancel the measures it adopted in the island and to end its occupation of Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb regarding their negative consequences on the relations between the two sides, the threat to security and stability and the increase of tension in the region.

The Council recalls the emphasis mentioned in the final communique of Abu Dhabi summit that the development of relations between the two sides was linked to strengthening trust and measures adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran which are in compliance with its commitment to the principles of good-neighborliness and the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states of the region as well as noninterference in internal affairs.

It reaffirms that the GCC states stand alongside and fully support the position of the UAE and they back all the peaceful measures and means which it deems appropriate to restore its sovereignty over its three islands on the basis of the international legitimacy and proceeding from the principle of collective security.

The Ministerial Council also debated the developments in the Middle East peace process. It reaffirmed the commitment of its member-states to supporting the peace negotiations which are aimed reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Arab- Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue on the basis of the two UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338, and realizing the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas including Holy Jerusalem and guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination and establishing firm foundations for guaranteeing security and stability in the area.

The Ministerial Council also is following the development of conditions in Somalia. It expresses satisfaction with the Somali sides reaching a national reconciliation agreement; it reaffirms the stand of the GCC states alongside Somalia and it appeals to the international community to continue the efforts aimed at restoring security and stability to that fraternal country so as to enable it to resume the process of construction and to carry out its positive role at Arab and international level.

The Ministerial Council welcomes the peace agreement in Afghanistan which was concluded by the groups of the Afghani mujahidin during the holy month of Ramadan. The Council praises the constructive efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as manifested in the noble endeavors of the King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, by calling on the mujahidin to discard their differences and to come to Holy Mecca in order to make up and reach an agreement. It also appreciates the positive and continuous efforts of Pakistan toward the same end.

While the Ministerial Council congratulates the leaders and people of Afghanistan for their reconciliation and the return of security and stability to the land of that fraternal Muslim country, it looks forward to seeing Afghanistan entering a new stage of stability and peace which would enable it to catch up with the march of development in the interest and good of the Afghani people.

The Ministerial Council followed with deep concern the continuation of the painful human tragedy of the people of the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of the

criminal aggression of the irregular Serbian forces which are backed by Serbia and Montenegro and thereby violating the charters of the UN and international law and challenging international legitimacy.

The Ministerial Council strongly condemns the Serbian aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina and the most abominable crimes of ethnic extermination, indiscriminate killings, organized rape, terror, deportation, starving the people, destruction of homes, and houses of worship committed by those forces.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the meeting of the standing committee of oil cooperation and welcomed its recommendations. Proceeding from the belief of the Council member-states in the importance of working to guarantee the freedom of international trade, and seeking to eliminate and alleviate obstacles that impede its flow, and given the great importance of energy in general and oil in particular in international trade, the Ministerial Council welcomed the conference of the oil ministers of OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing states due to be held in Mascot on 13 April 1993. The Council expressed the hope that this conference will come out with effective measures to prevent the adding of a tax burden on oil and its byproducts, which are already heavily taxed in the major consumer states, given that such an added tax would be an obstacle to international trade.

In this respect, the Ministerial Council stressed the determination of the Council states to have further negotiations with the major consumer states in order to protect the vital interests of the Council member-states, and boost international trade.

In the framework of the talks of the Council member-states with states and economic blocs, the Council agreed to convene a fresh round of talks with Japan in June. The Council also welcomes the conference of businessmen of the Council member-states and their counterparts from the United States scheduled to take place on 20 and 21 April 1993, and the Council agreed that its general-secretariat should have consultations with the Government of the United States to agree on a date for the next round of talks.

Concerning relations between the Council member-states and the EC, the Ministerial Council agreed to the holding of a fresh round of trade negotiations on 13-16 April 1993. The Ministerial Council also discussed the subjects which will be tabled at the next meeting of the common ministerial meeting between the GCC foreign ministers and their EC counterparts, which will be held in Brussels on 11 May 1993.

[Dated] Issued in Riyadh on 13 Shawwal 1413 AH, corresponding to 5 April 1993.

Qatari Foreign Minister Departs

JN0504140993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Apr (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani and the delegation accompanying him left Riyadh for Moscow this afternoon after attending meetings of the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which started in Riyadh yesterday.

In a predeparture statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, Shaykh Hamad paid tribute to the results of this session of meetings, noting that "the recommendations submitted by the technical ministerial committees regarding the enhancement of economic cooperation among GCC member have been endorsed."

With respect to the political issues discussed at this session of talks, Shaykh Hamad said that developments in the Gulf region were discussed. He added that the conferees also discussed Middle East developments in light of the contacts and negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region. He went on to say that the conferees also held a lengthy discussion on issues pertaining to energy, particularly the energy tax proposed by Europe and the United States and the means of confronting this.

The Qatari foreign minister explained that his visit to Russia is part of a tour that will also take him to the PRC and Japan. He added that the aim of the tour is to enhance the existing ties between Qatar and these states.

Shaykh Hamad noted that he will sign an agreement on promoting economic and trade cooperation between Qatar and the PRC during his Beijing visit.

Kuwait**Amir Invites Clinton To Visit To 'Consolidate' Relations**

LD0604103093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0951 GMT
6 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, 6 Apr (KUNA)—KUNA learned from sources in the Kuwaiti Embassy in Washington that the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, sent an invitation to U.S. President William Jefferson Clinton to carry out an official visit to Kuwait. Sources said that in the invitation sent to Clinton, the amir of Kuwait expressed the depth and strength of friendship ties and cooperation existing between the two friendly countries and people, pointing to the firm stand of the people of the United States towards the unjust Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait. The amir of Kuwait affirmed that this visit will entrench and consolidate the understanding existing between the United States and Kuwait.

106 Said Killed in Explosions at Mosul Airport 30 Mar

NC0504172993 (Clandestine) *Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic* 1605 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] There are reports that 106 people were killed and 213 others wounded in a series of explosions on 30 March at Abu-Sannaf Military Airport in Mosul. Several buildings and a number of cars were destroyed.

Marshland 'Repentant Persons' Turn Themselves In

JN0504150193 *Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic* 1400 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Thousands of repentant persons are voluntarily arriving in large numbers to party headquarters and tribal chiefs' chambers in the marshlands of al-Basrah Governorate to declare their deep regret for falling victim to the trumpets of Iran and its agents who sought to spread division and fragmentation in the united, great Iraq.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun, secretary of the al-Basrah Branch Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said: The command branch has set a comprehensive plan, for which it devoted all party and mass energies, to receive the repentant persons who are coming in large numbers from deep in the marshlands to our party branches in the marshland and land and to the tribal chiefs' chambers to take advantage of the pardon awarded by the beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. [passage omitted including indistinct words]

More on 'Misled' Persons, Iranian 'Crimes'

JN0604085793 *Baghdad INA in Arabic* 0628 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has affirmed that the process of deception, disinformation, and falsification, to which the Iranian regime resorts to achieve its conspiratorial schemes against Iraq, has soon revealed this regime's vile and malicious objectives.

In an article today, the paper says that the return of thousands of repentant, misled persons from the marshlands to the national ranks confirms the fact, now known to everyone, that this malicious process has quickly been disclosed, and that the misled persons have realized the dimensions and magnitude of the conspiracy concocted by the Tehran rulers to foment sedition and spread hatred among brothers. AL-'IRAQ adds that the repentant persons' return home is a flagrant condemnation of the Iranian regime, which is skilled in abominable crimes, schemes, and intrigues.

The paper points to the wise Iraqi leadership's renewed affirmations of its tolerance, magnanimity, and foresight as it welcomes the misled persons with open arms and helps them turn a new page in their lives under President Saddam Husayn, the leader of Iraqis and protector of their unity.

AL-'IRAQ wonders: Will the spiteful Iranian regime stop such stupid methods and reconsider its erroneous calculations which have always brought disasters to the helpless Iranian people? The paper stresses that the Iranian regime's crimes, committed in other Arab arenas, the latest being Algeria, will bring further isolation and indignation to this aberrant regime, which will be further exposed on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels, so it will eventually be an outcast regime liable to collapse under the hammer of the Iranian masses.

Salih Opens Assembly Spring Term

JN0304180393 *Baghdad INA in Arabic* 1715 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said that the reply to the 30-state aggression has succeeded, thanks to President Saddam Husayn's leadership, adding that the aims of the aggression have been thwarted.

Addressing the first session of the National Assembly's spring term today, Sa'di Mahdi Salih noted that the Iraqis have overcome all difficulties resulting from the evil aggression and reconstructed what was destroyed in record time, despite the continuing embargo.

National Assembly Meets, Elects Permanent Committees

JN0404140993 *Baghdad INA in Arabic* 1210 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—The National Assembly held a second meeting of its spring session this morning under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

During the meeting, the Assembly elected the permanent committees; namely, the Arab and International Committee, the Financial and Planning Affairs Committee, the Culture and Information Committee, the Education and Youth Committee, the Agriculture Committee, the Trade Committee, the Public Services Committee, the Citizens Affairs Committee, the Awqaf and Religious Affairs Committee, the Health and Social Affairs Committee, the Oil and Energy Committee, the Industry and Metals Committee, and the Legal Committee.

During its spring session, the National Assembly will discuss the issue of endorsing the child rights agreement, approved by the UN General Assembly; a document on Iraq's plan to join the additional protocol on amending the agreement to unify several air transportation rules; and the idea of establishing the post of an official authorized by the qadi to perform civil marriages outside Islamic courts.

Allied Use of Kuwait, Saudi Airfields Protested

JN0604100993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT
6 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued provision of facilities to U.S. and British aircraft which constantly violate Iraqi airspace after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This poses a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter sent yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said that these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace, and carried out 105 hostile air sorties on 1 and 2 April. Iraq's Arab League representative, who enclosed a list of these violations, requested that the letter be distributed among the League's member states to brief them on these regrettable facts.

UNSC Urged To Evaluate Implementation of 687

JN0304125693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Iraq has asked for an immediate and objective assessment of what has been implemented from the Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, far from tendentious political stands. This came in a memorandum handed yesterday, Friday, by Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's UN permanent representative, to the ambassadors of the United States, Britain, France, and Russia at the United Nations.

Iraq called for embarking on such an assessment by an authorized Iraqi delegation and another delegation authorized by the aforementioned countries and China.

Iraq noted in its memorandum that such objective assessment should be presented to the Security Council. Iraq also noted that the five permanent countries, in particular, and the Security Council should fulfill their commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraphs 21 and 22 of Resolution 687.

The Iraqi memorandum adds that Iraq explained on many occasions what was implemented from the Security Council resolutions. The memorandum says that any objective and unbiased evaluation should have required the lifting of the longstanding unjust blockade imposed on the people of Iraq and the halting of tendentious political and media campaigns against Iraq. The memorandum adds that this has not been accomplished yet for political reasons that have nothing to do with the provisions of the Security Council resolutions or the objectives of the United Nations. The memorandum says: Accusing Iraq of violating the resolutions is a biased and unrealistic conclusion and a resort to generalization for the purpose of deception.

Iraq stressed that it will continue to defend its sovereignty and independence. It called on the four countries to honor this in light of their responsibilities as permanent Security Council members and in accordance with the UN Charter.

Iraq noted that the three countries, which imposed the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq through a unilateral decision, prevented Iraq from defending its sovereignty against Iranian aggressive aerial operations that took place in April 1992 and March 1993. These countries did nothing but watch this clear aggression.

Peres Discusses Peace Talks, Government

T40504145293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR (Pesach supplement) in Hebrew 5 Apr 93 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Dorit Gefen and Pe'erli Shahar; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] ['AL HAMISHMAR] Terror activities are incessant, and the public is extremely troubled. What can the government do to reassure the people?

[Peres] I am aware that the public is concerned, and the reason for this is understandable. Every time a new wave of terror comes up it takes time to organize against it and keep it at bay. This is a situation we have not been accustomed to, and it will take some time for us to organize, but the most important thing is to keep our cool, since every outburst of public concern and hysteria only encourages the knife wielders. For all the pain involved, we must be very strong and keep our spirits up.

Practically speaking, the presence of the organized security forces on the city streets must be reinforced. I am referring to the police and the Army as well as the civil defense. Presence must simply be stepped up to deter the terrorists.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you favor giving a club to every child?

[Peres] I am not prepared to answer such a question before it is checked out.

['AL HAMISHMAR] How do you explain this eruption since Labor rose to power? What is the cause for this?

[Peres] One reason is the progress in the peace process. The nearer one gets to achievements, the stronger the disagreements. The second reason is that the Arabs are looking for other, different means to express their bitterness and opposition.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Does it have nothing to do with us? After all, on the eve of election day we said that if Labor won an agreement would be achieved with somebody within six to nine months and that accelerated negotiations would take place. None of this is happening. Does this not frustrate them?

[Peres] I am not sure. The knife wielders are individual decisionmakers. It does not seem to me at all to be organized terror. Organizing counteractions against organized terror would be easier. How did an Arab woman put this? She said: "I woke up in the morning with a headache and decided to stab a Jew."

['AL HAMISHMAR] Still, she had had this headache before but had not decided to stab Jews then. Something has happened.

[Peres] To a very large extent, our reactions have had their impact. At first, their throwing stones left a great

impression until we overcame it. Every time a new wave comes, it is a source of enthusiasm on their part and anxiety on ours.

['AL HAMISHMAR] You are talking about strength of spirit, but the fact is that segments of the public are extremely afraid. To what extent can we calm the public?

[Peres] We have to address ourselves to current problems and not dwell only on yesterday's problems. I see Israel facing three dangers: the knife, the tank, and the missile. It is impossible to introduce a military unit between the stabber and his victim. A military unit will be of no avail in separating a missile and its target. Most of our tactics are against the tank or related categories.

The answer to the knife does not lie in weapons but in reducing the motivation to wield it, and the way to do so is political rather than military. As for the missile, again national defense does not give a complete solution. There must be regional defense. In my opinion, we are constantly preoccupied with yesterday's problems and give too little thought to today's. Today's problems require a mixed military and political strategy. Policy too has turned into a means of warfare, deterrence, or defense.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Does the government of which you are a member view matters as you do and is it taking practical action in this direction?

[Peres] Practically speaking, this government has made several moves on behalf of peace, such as stopping settlements and showing readiness to apply Resolutions 242 and 338 to the Syrian front and institute a permanent solution with the Palestinians. Things have been done.

['AL HAMISHMAR] On the solution with the Palestinians, in an Arabic television interview I heard you say that we hinted to them that there would be a link between the interim arrangement and the permanent solution. What link is referred to?

[Peres] The interim arrangement will neither disrupt nor favorably or unfavorably affect any permanent solution. It leaves all options open, with the principle of this permanent solution being Resolutions 242 and 338.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Resolutions 242 and 338 are interpreted to involve territorial compromise. Are you talking of such a compromise on the West Bank too?

[Peres] Absolutely, as part of the permanent solution.

['AL HAMISHMAR] If I am not mistaken, you supported Moshe Dayan's plan for functional compromise in the past. This was a long time ago. What is the difference now?

[Peres] First, it seems to me that I was the first to come out with that plan, and I do not rule it out today either. In my opinion, the confederal—Jordanian-Palestinian or even Palestinian-Israeli—solution, namely, a functional

solution, is preferable today too, but in such a solution as well we undoubtedly have the point of land registry. There is a list of lands.

[AL HAMISHMAR] Comments are made today within the government and coalition both about a segregation. Should we not look for a solution that will reduce the friction, which will somewhat separate the rival parties?

[Peres] Nowhere in the world is there a segregation today. Borders among nations are more open today than ever before. It is an illusion to speak of physical separation.

As for political separation, for the Gaza Strip to be a self-contained entity, one should remember that this is a very small piece of land, 360 square km in all, with enormous crowding. Anything that takes place in Gaza, even if it is separated, will affect us. If the economic situation there is reasonable, I assume that violence will decrease, and vice versa. Hungry crowds there will resort to violence, and this too will affect us. How will you effect a segregation? With barbed wire fences? Will we turn Gaza into a single, large concentration camp? I am surprised at intelligent people who think so.

In general, I have come to realize that there is inclination in Israel to make an impression rather than to solve a problem, and the segregation doctrine is one example. The important thing is to resolve the issue, not what the public will say.

[AL HAMISHMAR] Sarid and Rubinstein are consolidating some plan of creating places of employment in Gaza. Do you view this as realistic?

[Peres] No, certainly not. I do not think that money creates places of employment. Projects create such places, and the transfer of funds from our unemployed to Gaza will not solve the problems there.

In my opinion, Israel neither needs to nor will remain in Gaza. We should not have occupied it in the first place. This is one of the worst mistakes we ever made. David Ben-Gurion, too, at the time opposed occupying Gaza when we could do so. All those who talk about security for Gaza today refer to the situation there 30 years ago, when Gaza had only 250,000 people. Today's population stands at 750,000. All talk about territories is strange since the problem is not territories. The problem is the population. Territories do not change, but populations always do. When Shamir said, "The sea is the same sea, and the Arabs are the same Arabs," he was right about the sea only.

Wind knows neither borders nor fences. What happens in Gaza affects Judaea and Samaria. Gaza is 40 percent of the problem, but the difficult 40 percent. It is 40 percent numerically, but 60 percent from the viewpoint of the seriousness of the problem. Had we solved the Gaza problem, it would have affected every citizen, in my opinion. We should return Gaza to the Gazans, but in an orderly manner.

[AL HAMISHMAR] What does orderly manner mean exactly?

[Peres] I cannot explain, not because I am incapable of doing so, but because I do not want to.

[AL HAMISHMAR] Still, can we let the West Bank wait? Do they have either the patience or the will to wait?

[Peres] I suggest that we do not play chess with ourselves. We keep doing so, and when the other side should make a move we say: Too bad, it is not worth your while. In other words, we advise the other side too, but we should not do so. The other side has its own wishes or desires.

[AL HAMISHMAR] Recently you repeatedly said that the time may have come for us to make a decision as to what we want to achieve, what our political objectives are. To what degree does the fact that goals have not been determined affect or possibly hold up the negotiations?

[Peres] You surely do not expect me to criticize the government of which I am member, and I will not do so. In my opinion, the first mistake is the talk about the price of peace rather than about the nature of peace. I believe that the price is fixed, but the nature is open. The price will not affect our future, in my opinion. Our main problem today is not only borders and territories, but regional—not only national—security, and the economy, which will change relations between us and the Arabs. In other words, these are different categories in my opinion. Incidentally, from the viewpoint of public relations too, it is preferable to ask the Arabs when they will obtain democracy rather than their asking us when our joint border will be determined.

Sometimes I ask myself what our generation has done, and I am not all that satisfied, since most of the time we thought about how to answer three dictators, two presidents, and another two or three kings rather than asking the correct question of what to do with the Middle East's residents. We keep on asking about al-Asad's health rather than inquiring into the health of the Syrian people or how 'Arafat is doing, when the true question is how the Palestinian people are faring.

A change in our question means a change in the Arabs' question too. We are constantly preoccupied with leaders rather than nations. I am not a Marxist, and I think that we keep on dealing with a state of war rather than the state of the economy. I am saying that Israel should decide since, to my great regret, it is Israel that should give, that should take the chance, and that will suffer the most pain as a result of the peace agreement. This is an asymmetrical situation, which can hardly be changed.

[AL HAMISHMAR] I accept the chance, but not that Israel should be the only side to pay. You talked about the nature of peace. Do you not mean something in return, in fact?

[Peres] Israel shoulders the price of peace. The Arabs will give that something in return.

[AL HAMISHMAR] A good something in return is worth the price.

[Peres] This is why we should pay attention to this something. This is much like entering a shop to buy an outfit. The question is what you are looking at: the quality or the price of that outfit. What is more important, the quality or the price of peace? If everything were up to me, I would have focused the negotiations on the quality rather than the price of peace, since if we could reach peace with open borders for instance, this would have made life easier for all parties. It is one thing to look at a border as a national barrier, and another thing to look at a border as a safety trench. One should decide what is under discussion here, what kind of relations the rival parties should have.

[AL HAMISHMAR] For all the history and distrust?

[Peres] We are conducting the negotiations with yesterday's people. If it were up to me, I would have conducted entirely different negotiations. I cannot level criticism in an interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR, which is a paper which is very loyal to the government.

[AL HAMISHMAR] You said that the price of peace is fixed. What is this price?

[Peres] I said it is fixed, but I will not make this ironclad. I do not think it is necessary to elaborate; those who understand understand.

[AL HAMISHMAR] If you elaborate, it will lead others to say that one should indeed elaborate and be done with it.

[Peres] Yes, but to elaborate means I will tell the Arabs how far we are willing to go.

[AL HAMISHMAR] You know the price, but you want the merchandise to be better.

[Peres] The negotiations focus on the quality of the product.

[AL HAMISHMAR] You said that the peace process is the most important issue for you and that you are allotting a certain period of time for its promotion before you give up and leave. Are you prepared to say how long this period of time is?

[Peres] No. [passage omitted]

[AL HAMISHMAR] You do not want to discuss the government in the media, but since we see a decline in the government's popularity and an increase in the Likud's popularity, is it not your political duty to address yourself to this issue in internal Labor forums?

[Peres] There are no such forums. Everything leaks out. There is no discretion in Israel, except for tete-a-tete talks perhaps, in which I say what I think.

[AL HAMISHMAR] Do your remarks then carry any influence?

[Peres] Do not make me pay compliments to myself.... It is as follows: I surely can make my views known, but I should take care not to allow this to spill into a personal quarrel, for otherwise my views will amount to nothing. Namely, I act in the framework of limitations I am well aware of. I have three limitations: leaks, over which I have no control; the image of a personal quarrel, which will further weaken the Labor party; and the impression of sowing dissent in the movement. I systematically and stubbornly avoid these things, although it is quite difficult at times, but I am not sorry.

[AL HAMISHMAR] When we entered this interview room and exchanged initial remarks you said you no longer want to deal with your relations with Rabin. You are two adults, and my impression is that at least outwardly you managed to overcome disagreements and respect each other. Should you know say, in public too, things that you say in tete-a-tete meetings? The public is impatient about economic issues too. People want to see quick answers. The nation has always been impatient, and when it is distressed it wants answers now.

[Peres] True, but I do not have the mandate to run the government, and must convey my views in deeds. I find myself in a situation of a contradiction between what I think I should state and the results of such statements. As anyone else, I should take acoustics too into account, not only the voice.

[AL HAMISHMAR] It sounds like you are walking on tiptoes.

[Peres] It is true to an extent, since firm walking can run over things and worsen the situation. [passage omitted]

New Entry Permits Issued to 'Key' Palestinians

TA0504125393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Despite the closure, the Civil Administration has begun issuing residents of the territories new permits to enter the Green Line. The new permits will be valid for a period of one day to a week.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that these permits were issued to the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, food suppliers, employees of international organizations, attorneys, and other people in key positions. Similar permits were issued to approximately 1,400 laborers from Judaea and Samaria to work in hothouses in Jewish settlements. Our correspondent points out that the defense establishment has decided that even after the closure is lifted, only Palestinians holding such permits will be able to work inside the Green Line. Eight roadblocks that have been set up in Judaea and Samaria will serve as checkpoints, while the checkpoints at the Gaza Strip will remain at the Erez, Nahal 'Oz, and Kisufim barriers.

'Iranian Opposition Sources': Arad Alive

TA0504125593 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew
31 Mar 93 p 28

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanyimi]

[Excerpt] Navigator Ron Arad is alive and is being held in Lebanon, Iranian opposition sources have said, citing sources in Tehran. According to them, his health is good. They added that the key figure for Arad's release is spiritual leader Shaykh Fadlallah, who is the only Lebanese clergyman who knows the whereabouts of Arad and can negotiate his release.

One of the reasons Ron Arad has so far been excluded from POW exchange deals is that Israel has been negotiating with the wrong elements, the Iranian sources claimed: "Anyone who wanted to make some money seized the opportunity of selling 'information' to the Israelis in Europe and the United States. They often held contacts unsupported by facts for a profit. Anyone connected with Iran or Hizballah knows today that Israeli MIA's mean good money and that this can be exploited." According to the sources, the only way to reach a deal today is through Shaykh Fadlallah, who resides in west Beirut. [passage omitted]

Intifadah Pamphlet Urges 'Struggle' Escalation

TA0604044293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400
GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The unified uprising leadership in the territories have called on Palestinians to escalate the struggle against Israel. The latest pamphlet issued by the group also calls for strengthening what it termed national and Islamic unity to confront the occupation and to inflict painful blows on Israelis.

Soldier Stabbed in Nabulus; 2 Captured

TA0604071293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700
GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] An Arab resident of Nabulus this morning stabbed a soldier who was guarding the municipal employment bureau and slightly wounded him in the neck. The soldier struggled with the assailant, shot and badly wounded him. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

In Tulkarm, a Border Police patrol captured a suspect who was found in a possession of a knife. An examination revealed that the man had been wanted by the security forces. In Janin, another fugitive turned himself in to the Border Police. The two fugitives were taken for questioning.

Army Intelligence Chief on Terrorism

TA0504103593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Pesah supplement) in Hebrew 5 Apr 93 pp 6, 7, 9

[Interview with Major General Uri Sagi, head of the Army's Intelligence Branch, by Ron Ben-Yishay; place and date not given]

[Text] [Ben-Yishay] Maj. Gen. Sagi, do the Arabs in the territories and the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists abroad believe they can bring Israel to its knees through terrorism?

[Sagi] I do not think that the Palestinian organizations believe terrorism will force Israel to its knees. Even the Hamas has not reached such a conclusion; however, they are very much aware of the damage caused to our national morale by terrorism and of the psychological effect of terrorist attacks against individuals. They live among us. They watch our television. They read our newspapers.

[Ben-Yishay] Does this encourage them?

[Sagi] Yes. Any sense of despondency here in Israel definitely encourages them to continue their actions. They are definitely encouraged whenever a successful terrorist attack is pulled off. It is important for us to realize that the Hamas leadership abroad, and especially that of the PLO in Tunis, receive accurate reports in virtually real time. They are knowledgeable about any possible achievements or damages within Israeli society, and they are very much aware of any possible political ramifications inside the State of Israel.

[Ben-Yishay] Or in other words, that terrorism could cause the government's collapse?

[Sagi] ...Either the government's collapse or serious internal political problems. It could arouse criticism, pressure, and more than anything else rile up public opinion. But that is not the subject of discussion right now. I am responsible for what is happening on their side, not ours.

[Ben-Yishay] The security forces have implemented a series of steps: a closure on the territories, new rules of engagement. Do you estimate that this will calm things down to a certain extent?

[Sagi] Neither I, nor anyone involved with this job on our side, know of any total, sweeping solution for this problem, especially not for this kind of terrorism. It is frustrating, tough and painful but I do not see any alternative other than trying to increase the efficiency of the security forces, both on the intelligence and operational levels. Perhaps altered rules of engagement, closures, and other measures could help. However, one clearly cannot keep all the residents of the territories under a lengthy or continuous closure. Sooner or later, life will have to return to a different state of normalcy or to a different situation than today. In my opinion, there are no total solutions, either military or otherwise, that

could completely eradicate terrorism. However, I believe that as soon as there is a drop in the number of successful terrorist attacks, the wave will greatly subside. There is nothing like success to encourage these acts and there is nothing like failure to make them understand that they will achieve nothing this way.

[Ben-Yishay] Is the pressure leveled by the security forces on the organized terrorist squads effective?

[Sagi] Numerous fugitives are on the run. They are trying to escape from the territories and cross the country's borders. Quite a few Hamas and Fatah operatives have fled to Egypt in recent months. Even in the past few days we have witnessed the escape of people who felt that the security forces were after them and decided to make a run for it. These people are generally arrested when they reach their escape destinations and even deported.

I can hardly recall any converse attempts over the past few months of former fugitives or terrorists trying to infiltrate back in. I have no doubt that those operating against us, especially the organized squads—I am not talking about individual stabbers—are under quite a lot of pressure.

[Ben-Yishay] Where are the Hamas headquarters located?

[Sagi] There is no hierarchal organization. The Hamas does not have one central command operating the squads at the field level. The Hamas was clever enough to organize itself in a very decentralized manner. Even if there is some sort of leadership abroad, it is not in charge of the operational side. It was recently published, and it is no secret, that part of the Hamas leadership resides in the United States and other Western countries. Musa Marzuq (the head of the Hamas' political arm) is an American citizen, and to the best of my knowledge he currently lives in the United States.

But what is popularly known as the leadership mainly deals with the political, budgetary, and organizational aspects of the activity and does not necessarily send out the operational forces.

This is not a leadership that orchestrates terrorist activities from abroad into Israel. These are decentralized and partisan acts by any one of the Hamas branches. Even here, in Israel and the territories, there is no one central leadership but rather regional commands which operate the armed squads in their districts.

They enjoy a high level of compartmentalization. They have divided the country among four or five commands which operate smaller organizational units and cells. At the bottom of the chain of command there is one man who heads an armed squad. He knows almost nobody else in the organization. There is a very dense network of operators, sub-operators, guerrillas etc.

They are naturally more familiar with the terrain than the forces confronting them. They also have sophisticated operational methods. We know these methods very

well because the Shin Bet and the other intelligence services have been quite successful in their surveillance activity. It starts with their training: first they have basic weapons training, then they practice observing and collecting information about our forces, then they train in concealment and personal camouflage techniques. That is why they are so adept at hiding and why their surveillance of our forces prior to their operations is so good.

[Ben-Yishay] Who teaches them all this clandestine organizational stuff?

[Sagi] It is learned mainly through experience and in the course of their activity. One must remember that this is a protracted struggle and they also gaining experience from it.

[Ben-Yishay] Is the Hamas currently at the forefront of terrorist activity in the field?

[Sagi] Only in the qualitative sense. As for the quantitative side of things, it is the Fatah that carries out the greatest number of attacks. However, in general the Fatah squads are far less impressive and of lower quality, and therefore much less painful. The terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas are noted for their cruelty, determination to hurt their victim, and intensive use of weapons.

[Ben-Yishay] Is there any cooperation between the organizations affiliated with the PLO and Hamas?

[Sagi] Generally not. It can happen on occasion but it is quite rare. Each organization acts on its own.

[Ben-Yishay] Did the deportees affair have any effect on the status of Hamas in the territories?

[Sagi] One should distinguish between two stages. In the first stage there was a sweeping solidarity with the deportees, but in the second stage it was felt that the organizational-religious infrastructure of Hamas as well as the Islamic Jihad was cut off. We may feel the results of this in the long term. The deportation had very little impact on the operational activity of these organizations in the area since most of the activists have not been caught yet. Politically, Hamas as a movement today poses a potential threat to the hegemony the PLO enjoys in leading the Palestinian public.

[Ben-Yishay] Does the PLO have a forum that can make difficult political decisions and take care that they are implemented in the area?

[Sagi] The overseas PLO leadership is still the dominant body, which dictates the moves of the Palestinians wherever they may be, especially on the political level. There are institutions, people, a hierarchy, and decision-makers. For the time being, this is 'Arafat. At the same time, the PLO does not have absolute control over everything connected to the operational aspect in the area here.

In a somewhat Machiavellian manner: The PLO can inflame spirits here, but it cannot calm them down, even if it so wishes.

The overseas PLO leadership is still mainly influenced by the decisions and actions of 'Arafat. One should also note it is 'Arafat who holds up progress in the political process. To guarantee his place at the head of the Palestinians he demands, now already, a linkage between the interim and permanent arrangements. He quite insists on this, although he is a full party to the desire to draw the maximum from the political process. So far he has refused to allow progress in the process on conditions which might have been obtainable from others in the Palestinian leadership. There are others, such as Abu-Mazin, alias for Mahmud 'Abbas, and Nabil Sha'th, who are more pragmatic and realistic, although they will not disobey 'Arafat but will rather argue with him and try to convince him. If progress is made in the process, however, 'Arafat too will have to adapt himself to reality. Positions will be softened and concessions will be made, and this applies to him too, of course.

[Ben-Yishay] If the State of Israel decides to adopt very drastic measures, such as large-scale bombing of houses belonging to wanted people or terrorists, mass deportations, and opening of fire without warning, will this calm terror down, in your opinion?

[Sagi] The intelligence material lying in front of me does not include anything which may give an authoritative answer to this question. Basing myself on history and study of the past, I can only say that such measures may, perhaps, result in short-term, temporary calm, but they will not lead to the solution of the roots of this problem. Others' experience has taught us that strong measures, tough as they may be, did not ultimately solve national, cultural, religious, and territorial problems of the kind with which we are coping.

[Ben-Yishay] Two years ago I interviewed you, and you surprised me when you said that you noticed a Syrian willingness to enter a peace process with Israel, and this is what happened indeed. Today, after we have accumulated the experience of more than a year in the political process, do you see a genuine Syrian willingness for a historic compromise with Israel, or do we still talk of a tactical move by al-Asad, aimed at winning the Americans' favor?

[Sagi] I notice the change in Syria, and this change has a historic meaning. If this reaches the point of a historic decision, well, this is very much conditional on what they will obtain from us in the political process itself. Still, I believe it is possible to state that the Syrians concluded that, at least at this stage, there is no way better than negotiations with Israel to regain sovereignty over the Golan in return for peace or a state of nonbelligerency. I believe the Syrians want an arrangement with us to invest effort in national goals other than security, without neglecting security of course. Those who are opposed to this conclusion of mine pose a question

which must not be ignored: Why, simultaneously with the political process, does Syria continue to build up in such an impressive manner?

And it is true. We have to pay attention to and keep an eye on this: There is an ongoing Syrian military buildup side by side with the political process. Some (in the intelligence community—R.B.) believe that the Syrian buildup indicates intentions contradicting the aims of the political process; while others, including myself, believe that the Syrian buildup parallels and complements the political process, and does not contradict it. I am not justifying the Syrian arms procurement and buildup, but I believe the Syrians are doing this because they want to hold negotiations with us from a position and feeling of strength. They wish to make sure that if and when the political process fails, Syria is well equipped to deal with Israel through other means. In this context, I would note that Syria is afraid of us. According to Syrian concepts, we are a threat and they should be prepared to defend themselves against us.

Nevertheless, going back to the situation of the political process, I believe there has been no significant change in the Syrian stand over the past year. So far, there has been no breakthrough, certainly not an impressive one. The Syrians are demanding the full return of their sovereignty over the Golan Heights, not showing even the slightest sign of readiness for a compromise.

At the same time, one can detect signs of Syrian flexibility in other spheres. I may only discuss things that have already been published: They believe that there will have to be some flexibility or understanding regarding security arrangements that would satisfy both parties. I also believe that one can detect signs of readiness to reach a compromise, some flexibility, regarding the continued implementation of the arrangement.

[Ben-Yishay] Who has al-Asad's ear regarding the peace process? Who are the people who are really close to him with whom he consults about the peace process? He must be talking to someone.

[Sagi] I would not like to go into detail here, for understandable reasons. However, I do not know of a single person who, eventually, does not consult or listen to others. Al-Asad is very attentive and patient.

He is very cautious and suspicious, and very slow in making decisions. Once he makes a decision, however, I believe he is very determined and stubborn in implementing it. Once he gets hold of his prey, he will not let go, but it will take him time to decide to bite into it. Things take time to ripen with him, but I believe that once they are ripe, he keeps a steady course. So far, I have learned that whenever a signed agreement serves Syrian interests it is honored fully.

[Ben-Yishay] There have been reports recently that al-Asad's health is frail again. Some have even claimed that he would like to return the Golan Heights to Syria before he dies, which is why he is at the negotiating table at all.

[Sagi] Al-Asad is getting old, but I believe that the news of his death or near death were premature, if I may cite Mark Twain. At least I believe that he is active and his mind is clear and that there is no visible indication that his health has deteriorated.

[Ben-Yishay] What would happen to the peace process if al-Asad quits the scene?

[Sagi] I have no assessment on that. There are numerous scenarios and one can only guess. In any event, I cannot say that, in terms of political concepts, Syria has crossed the Rubicon as Egypt had with al-Sadat and later Mubarak. This is not yet true regarding Syria's attitude to the peace process with Israel.

[Ben-Yishay] As you said before, Syria continues arming itself. Does it have new capabilities today which it did not have a year ago?

[Sagi] On the conventional level, Syria has, and is, impressively upgrading its armored units. If and when it completes the purchase deals it has signed, all of its armored divisions will be equipped with advanced T-72 tanks. Today Syria has more than 4,000 tanks and some 300 self-propelled guns, which improve its land offensive capabilities. The Air Force has not changed much. They have MiG-29's and Sukhoi-24's. They showed an interest in the Russian Sukhoi-27, which is a more advanced assault jet, but no deal has been signed yet. They have been purchasing conventional weapons mainly in Russia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia; the Bulgarians sold them the artillery.

An important component of Syrian military might, which has improved over the last year, are the long-range surface-to-surface missiles. We discussed the Korean Scud-C deal last year. These are quite precise missiles with a range of some 500 km. If and when the terms of the contract are implemented, it will not be long before Syria will be able to produce its own missiles and even launchers. The deal has not been concluded yet, but the preparations for self-production continue very intensively.

Another issue worth following, not without concern, are the Syrian attempts to develop various military means. Their research institutes are trying to close the military technology gap between Syria and other Middle East countries.

[Ben-Yishay] What means?

[Sagi] Ammunition, chemical weapons, and perhaps other nonconventional arms. Not nuclear arms, at least not at this stage.

[Ben-Yishay] Has the Syrian economic situation improved?

[Sagi] Yes. Over the past several years, promising oil fields have been found in Syria. It is believed that the Syrian oil reserves are larger than is currently assumed.

[Ben-Yishay] Is al-Asad preparing his people for peace?

[Sagi] Yes. One can notice some change in the open media treatment of the political process and even a possible peace with Israel. Still, we should keep things in perspective. There is no sweeping sympathy for Israel, but there is certainly a different attitude; a little less aggressive, a little less critical, and perhaps a little less annoying in terms of the political process in particular, and the State of Israel in general.

Personally, al-Asad has addressed himself to the issue of peace in numerous speeches in various forums. Three months ago he spoke of the need to establish a peace of the brave and of the need to make tough decisions. He may have been speaking about us, but he could have been speaking of himself and the Syrian people. I believe there has been a change in this respect. It is not yet the change we are hoping for. It is not a total change of atmosphere or expressions, but I have no doubt that this is different from what we knew in the past.

[Ben-Yishay] Is this true regarding home propaganda, say, in the Syrian Army?

[Sagi] I believe that the very concept of a political process which may bring peace is not alien to large parts of the Syrian Army, perhaps also to the senior commanders. Obviously, they do not allow themselves to express their own opinions. Still, I believe that very central Syrian figures are aware of the process and the change al-Asad has introduced.

[Ben-Yishay] Saddam Husayn has also recently announced that he supports the peace process.

[Sagi] He is an incredible opportunist. I read his remarks and I do not believe that he is about to take an active or effective part in the political process any time soon.

[Ben-Yishay] What do you believe is happening in Iraq?

[Sagi] Saddam is still in power in Iraq. We see no signs that his rule is destabilizing. He does not control the northern part of the country, the Kurdish area, but he lives with that. He has some problems with the Shiites in the south, but he is more active there and his Army is more successful. As far as he is concerned, he has unlimited control over Baghdad and its environs.

[Ben-Yishay] Have the UN sanctions not effected Saddam's hold of power?

[Sagi] No, they have had no effect. He is still under strict closure and sanctions, but we know there are loopholes in the blockade. In general, the economic situation in Iraq has not drastically deteriorated; it even improved. Iraq sustains itself, and this truth has to be presented to all.

Iraq has remained rebellious. It disobeys the UN Security Council resolutions regarding disarmament and supervision. It is still refusing to submit the lists of the companies and suppliers that helped it set up its non-conventional infrastructure. It also manages to occasionally threaten the flow of the constant U.S. aid to the

Kurdish enclave, and Iraqi intelligence is carrying out acts of terror and sabotage there.

I believe Iraq is sobering up from the illusions it had regarding the Clinton administration. One may predict that Saddam will again take a collision course with the Americans. I would not rule out the possibility that this could happen in the next few months. It is still too early to say whether this would turn out to be a sweeping confrontation. It will not necessarily lead to an all-out war, but this business is worth paying attention to, and we are.

[Ben-Yishay] If I speak to you next year, will Saddam still feature in our conversation?

[Sagi] If there is no change in the basic conditions as I have just described them, it seems he will.

[Ben-Yishay] Which is more dangerous to our region's stability—Israel and the whole world—Iran or Iraq?

[Sagi] I have no absolute forecast. I believe they are both a threat to regional stability. Today, however, when Iraq is under international supervision and pressure, it seems to me that the long-range Iranian potential is more threatening.

First, because Iran conducts a policy of strengthening which is aimed at making it a near "superpower" while developing and equipping itself with nuclear and other types of nonconventional arms.

Second, Iran is able to disturb the balance and stability in the region by spreading fundamentalist Islam. This, coupled with its direct involvement in terror, which the Iranians finance or direct around the world, makes it an element which is more threatening to regional and world peace than any other Middle East entity.

At the same time, it is worth mentioning that Israel is not the aim of the current Iranian policy. Iran would have assumed this policy even if the State of Israel had not existed. It does call for Jihad against us, it objects our very existence, it might even participate in a war against us, if there is one. Nevertheless, the bulk of its efforts is directed at Iraq and other Muslim regimes, not against us.

Therefore, I would recommend that we try not to make public prophecies that might fulfill themselves, to our dismay. Our public treatment of Iran should not upset the Iranians and make them do more than they already are. The international community is already aware of the Iranian threat, and the West has already geared up in an attempt to foil it. Still, I would not like us to stir up hysteria and identify ourselves as Iran's prime target because eventually the Iranians might just agree with us.

[Ben-Yishay] How advanced is Iran already in the development of its nuclear, chemical, and biological arms?

[Sagi] No: very. It is a slow, gradual, but ongoing process. The obsession is there. If this threat of an Iranian buildup of nuclear arms and missiles is not foiled—or

alternatively, if it does not accelerate—we expect it would take between eight and 10 years for the ability to materialize. There are still many things that should be done which could slow down the process or even halt it.

[Ben-Yishay] Do you know of a trickle of scientists, know-how, or even nuclear warheads from the CIS, the former USSR, to Iran?

[Sagi] Even if here and there there were attempts, they were sporadic and insignificant. To the best of our knowledge—and we do not know everything—nothing of operative significance has happened since last year, but we must be on guard.

[Ben-Yishay] Let us discuss Lebanon. Is it really on the road to political and economic rehabilitation?

[Sagi] I believe that the current Lebanese administration, led by Rafiq al-Hariri, has taken several steps indicating the strengthening of central power. The fact that al-Hariri, the billionaire who made his fortune in Saudi Arabia, was elected president has already had a positive effect on the Lebanese economy. I believe he has better connections and a stronger personality than his predecessors had.

The other thing that took place in Lebanon, and we must not underestimate this, was the strengthening and change of organizational structure of the Lebanese Army. The religious and sectarian elements have been tarnished and today it is impossible to distinguish between Christian or Shiite military units. They also crossed commanders. The 6th Battalion, which previously was Shiite, is no longer purely that. Its commander is a Christian or a Druze.

Incidentally, the 6th Battalion is trying to conduct very efficient military activities.

The third thing is that the Lebanese Administration has been quite successful in disarming the Palestinian organizations, though not absolutely. Recently there has been Palestinian activity. The Lebanese Government is currently also trying to restrict Hizballah activity—although it is perceived as legitimate—so as not to exceed the parameters which might bring about severe Israeli retaliation. This is true in relation to the government's opposition to firing katyushas as well as to the operations of Hizballah terror squads inside Israeli territory.

The Lebanese Administration has gained strength. Incidentally, unpleasant as this might be, al-Hariri's stubborn and perhaps tough stand regarding the deportees indicates that the Lebanese Administration today is slightly different. He ordered that they not be allowed to enter Lebanese territory; he did not allow their absorption in Lebanon; he has the West's backing. The United States treats him and Lebanon more openly. All in all, I believe we have indications that Lebanon has changed, perhaps even strengthened.

[Ben-Yishay] Is this good or bad for the Jews?

[Sagi] In the long run, I see no negative aspects in this, especially if we are pinning any hopes on political arrangements in the Middle East.

[Ben-Yishay] Is there any new information about Ron Arad and the MIA's?

[Sagi] No.

[Ben-Yishay] Do you believe Israeli intelligence has the long-range nonconventional and missile threat well covered in terms of foiling, deterrence, and intelligence gathering?

[Sagi] It is hard to describe this with precision. I believe that very important steps are being taken to deal with the issue. Obviously, the scope of our intelligence interest has expanded very much—in terms of geographic scope, activities, technology, and other things. These processes are still far from being satisfactory, but I believe very important ground work is taking place here.

[Ben-Yishay] And finally, this is a traditional question that has to be asked at the conclusion of every interview with the head of the Intelligence Branch, for the sake of history and for the record: What is your forecast for the possibility of a war?

[Sagi] In the foreseeable future, the next year, I believe the probability of an all-out Arab-initiated war is low, perhaps even very low. If the basic regional conditions suddenly change, or alternatively, if the peace process reaches a total freeze and its participants reach the conclusion that they have no political alternative, the threat will significantly rise.

Still, if we read correctly into the political process—naturally, not disregarding the dangerous phenomena I have described, from arms procurement to terrorism—then, and this is my view, I believe the threat of an all-out war initiated by the Arabs in the coming year or the near future has diminished and is low.

Baraq Interviewed on Closure, Security

TA0504132993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Apr 93
pp 15, 21

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of General Staff, by DAVAR's editorial board team; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [DAVAR] How long will the closure continue, and do you regard it as an aspirin or a more serious medicine?

[Baraq] The closure will continue; we have still not decided on a precise date for its termination. It is aimed at separating Israelis living within the Green Line from the approximately 120,000 Palestinians working daily in Israel. This closure exacts a heavy price in terms of the growing internal pressures faced by the inhabitants of the territories. It also brings about economic hardship, because they have no alternative jobs. To a certain

extent, our policy constitutes collective punishment, and this certainly does not contribute to our discriminating between the hard-core terrorists—against whom our operations are mainly aimed and who constitute no more than one-half of 1 percent of the population—and the general population.

From the point of view of the military commanders on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the shorter the closure the better. But at this particular time there is a great sensitivity within Israel following the recent spate of murderous attacks in the Gaza Strip and Israel itself, and the situation was only exacerbated by the irresponsible behavior of the media. As a result of this, we decided it was necessary to implement a prolonged closure, and I cannot tell you whether it will be 10 days, two weeks or 20 days.

During this period of closure, or at least in its initial stages, we are activating large forces. This is enabling us to accelerate our operations to gain control of the Palestinian street and improve our operations against suspects.

[DAVAR] The closure and the Army operations during this period will certainly result in the apprehension of more terror squads and organized groups. Will it not, on the other hand, increase the phenomenon of independent knife-wielders, who will want to give vent to their rage and frustration?

[Baraq] In this complicated situation, every action we take has two sides. Some things are effective in the short term. Simple measures that we have been implementing throughout the intifadah, such as wide-scale detentions in the territories, have an immediate calming affect on the village or town concerned. In the longer run, however, in our detention facilities the Palestinians attend seminars for instruction, consolidation, and ideological commitment, which is harmful in the long term.

The same thing applies in the present situation. In the short term the closure enables our special and various other forces to exert great pressure on the terrorists, forcing them to change their patterns of behavior and providing more opportunities to apprehend them. On the other hand, this situation also increases the general frustration. By taking tens of thousands young people who have been working and then exerting economic and psychological pressure on them, we are taking the risk that some of them will join the organized or spontaneous circle of stabbings. [passage omitted]

Incidentally, I do not harbor any illusions that our operations will put an end to terror incidents. But they are reducing drastically the probability of more attacks. Obviously successful stabbings only encourage other potential knife-wielders. Real deterrence consists of three elements: First, preventing attacks by effective intelligence and the operation of our special forces; second, reactions during the attack itself, which should be aimed at incapacitating the terrorist until he ceases to

be dangerous and at apprehending him; and third, pursuing terrorists who have managed to escape and apprehending and punishing them. These are the three elements, and they are all practical.

[DAVAR] The fourth element, which you did not mention and which you supported only several months ago, is deportation as a deterrent.

[Baraq] Yes.

[DAVAR] Do you agree today that the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists last December was a mistake and that the element of deterrence inherent in the fear of more deportations was nullified by the political activity that came in the wake of the deportation?

[Baraq] I do not think so. I believe that the deportation was an extremely important step.

[DAVAR] Was it a correct step?

[Baraq] It was correct and extremely effective. The blow to the Hamas infrastructure was very significant. At the time it also ended a series of attacks, which saw six security forces personnel dead within one week. This was extremely important at the time. In principle, I think the government and the authorities are entitled to choose what measures to adopt. It is unwise to avoid in principle the use of any potential measure.

[DAVAR] Following all that has taken place since the deportation, will it be possible to use this measure again in the future?

[Baraq] Some of the damage was caused by internal pressures, which we ourselves manufactured. Some pressures expressed the authentic discontent of world public opinion or were the result of various political positions.

[DAVAR] So was it not a mistake nevertheless?

[Baraq] I do not think so. Moreover, even in the past this measure has not been used often. Such a large-scale, temporary removal is certainly an exceptional measure. We have never announced a policy of repeated deportations. Frankly, I cannot tell you that we will refrain from considering the such a thing under any circumstances. This is simply untrue.

[DAVAR] The United States has promised the Palestinians that it will regard future Israeli deportations with great disfavor. Will this make it difficult for us to consider such a move in the future?

[Baraq] Yes. I think that an American expectation that we refrain from such a step will always be included in our considerations prior to making decisions, and this is proper and fitting. It will be a mistake, considering Israel's situation, to ignore any aspect that directly or indirectly touches on our relations with the United States or to say that their opinion in the matter is

irrelevant. Ultimately, however, we will reach our own decision as an independent nation.

[DAVAR] What are the ramifications of the deportation on the political process?

[Baraq] I do not believe that the political process would have been at a much more advanced stage had there been no deportation. I believe that the negotiations will resume this month. Incidentally, we did not deport them; we merely removed them temporarily. With each passing day the removal period becomes shorter. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] Based on your feeling that the political process will resume, can you assess how close is Israel to an arrangement with Syria, and in your opinion what is the best arrangement?

[Baraq] I think that the possibility of an arrangement with Syria is closer than ever, not merely because a year has passed since the negotiations began. I cannot say with certainty, however, what the essence of peace will be and what concrete clarifications the Syrians are willing to offer beyond an exchange of slogans. From our point of view, what the Syrians are seeking is very problematic, because they want to receive from a democratically elected government in a democratic country an irrevocable commitment to carry out an action that can be closely monitored and checked, whereas what they are offering us in exchange is a slogan, the two words "total peace"—and even this they have not said openly—and this depends on the good intentions of Syria over many years. This situation involves complicated risks so long as we cannot clarify in concrete terms what the two sides are willing to take and give.

I therefore consider this situation complicated, in certain respects more so than with Egypt, because now we have a precedent to follow. In the case of Egypt, we also had a far more extensive territory that was uninhabited. Now the situation is different.

At the same time, when I ask myself whether there was ever a better time for an arrangement, I cannot point to a time more ripe for an arrangement than the present.

[DAVAR] Are you troubled by the fact that al-Asad is demanding more than the Israeli Government is willing to give?

[Baraq] I cannot talk about the Israeli Government. I am troubled by the lack of concreteness in al-Asad's proposals presented in the media.

[DAVAR] Has the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] consolidated a plan for withdrawal on the Golan Heights?

[Baraq] The entire issue is still unripe. Its practical treatment in the political process, contrary to the media, has still not reached the stage calling for IDF involvement. We have not been approached and asked to draw up plans. This is a fact.

[DAVAR] The Iraqis have reached rock bottom and are now beginning to recover. Is Iraq as dangerous as it was, or is the main threat today posed by Iran, which is developing nuclear capabilities?

[Baraq] Iraq is extremely dangerous even today. As soon as UN supervision is lifted, the Iraqis will begin the countdown toward developing nonconventional weapons. Within a year Saddam can attain chemical capabilities, and within four to five years he can obtain a primitive nuclear installation. The very fact that Saddam Husayn could rise up like a nuclear Phoenix from his defeat in the Gulf War serves as a lesson and a symbol for the new world disorder and for the effectiveness of the international community's operations. Both the man and his regime remain very dangerous, because the potential is there and they have not lost their ambitions. Saddam is evincing great talent in translating military defeats into political, and perhaps even historic, victories.

[DAVAR] What about Iran?

[Baraq] There is no comparison between the two. The Iraqis have physically participated in all the wars against us from the Independence War to the Yom Kippur War. Iran, on the other hand, has not participated in any war against us. Until the last generation they were also our good friends. The hostility between Iran and Iraq has existed throughout history. We are interested in a balance between them in which both countries are weakened and curbed by a regional combination of powers.

Iran is a problematic source of long-term threats, not because of its conventional power but rather through its nonconventional capabilities. It lags behind Iraq by several years, especially if supervision is lifted from the latter. Iran is particularly dangerous in terms of radiating its regime's practices and its political and socio-religious involvement to the entire region—Lebanon, Sudan, Algeria, Egypt, and so on. From this point of view, it is extremely dangerous, but not only to us. This is why it is not our problem. Under no circumstances would I recommend making it look like a bipolar picture of Israel against Iran.

[DAVAR] Suppose the IDF received an instruction from the government to liquidate terror—would it be possible?

[Baraq] Governments formulate goals in practical terms. No government has formulated an instruction for the IDF in this specific manner, but on the other hand the IDF has no illusion that it can take a rest because it is not expected to act. We have been fighting terror since the early 1950's; some say we have been doing so since the 1920's or even the turn of the century. I would not want to go that far. We had a wave of terror in the 1960's, and a different one at the beginning of the 1970's. We also had a wave in the early 1980's besides the present one. Each of these waves is different in nature, source, and form. The Army handles each wave as a military task, in the most effective way it knows, from the viewpoints of

correct reaction when terror actions are perpetrated, of preventing it in the first place, and of pursuing it with the aim of eradicating it.

The security forces have scored excellent achievements in the struggle against terror, but terror, as a phenomenon, invests itself in new shapes and forms each time it erupts. As an executive body, it is important for us to distinguish between the political aspect of the roots of this problem and practical, military tasks. As a military element, it is very important that we concentrate on the mission and let the political echelon handle the roots. Our objective is to allow the political level to handle the roots of this problem at a time and by a method of its choosing while free from the immediate pressure of acting at gunpoint but not free from the need to understand reality.

[DAVAR] Did you receive from members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Netanyahu and Sharon for instance, practical suggestions for the anti-terror war?

[Baraq] From the previous government, of all governments, we sometimes received proposals that were discussed. Legal, operationally useful proposals were adopted. There were good proposals, and there were also illegal ones.

In other instances we hear proposals that are better for headlines than for implementation. We are open to any proposal, and we check it out for content. We are open to any proposal, not only from public figures but also from any citizen who may have an idea as to how to improve the antiterror war. Many dozens of civilians, in Israel and abroad, send us proposals, some of which are interesting and valuable and are adopted.

[DAVAR] The feeling is that the recent wave was accompanied by more criticism from radical right-wing people, not only against the political level but also against the Army and its commanders. Do you feel that the Army this time finds itself in a less comfortable situation than in the past?

[Baraq] An army is a body built to withstand the weight of an overall war. Woe is us if the Army had been swayed by one type of criticism or another. The Army has a task that it should fulfill within the framework of the law. The Army has no reason to sway, and it does not.

Still, I want to make another comment in this context. In such a struggle, because of its uniqueness, because of its duration, and because of the need to undergo difficult moments in which the other side scores achievements, the internal, spiritual strength of the society and its individuals is a key weapon. The absence of this strength is a paramount weakness, which could exact a heavy price in such a struggle.

In the course of incidents, calls to the effect that "The sky is falling," and "Everything is falling apart," could be regarded as an overall collapse of our security. For those

who were hurt in the incidents, this is an irreversible disaster indeed; for their families too, the future will not be the same anymore, but there is little besides an excessive social and public reaction that can encourage the other side more and prompt it into further incidents. What does such a reaction mean to the terrorists? They will say to themselves: We thought that we stabbed a single person, thus causing a heavy disaster to his family and immediate environment, but we might have discovered a more sensitive point here than we thought. And, this is their goal, after all: It is not the number of people who will be killed—there are many more casualties in road accidents—but the resulting fear and terror.

This is true in another direction too. If, under the impression of incidents, voices are heard in the media and the public to the effect that far-reaching political moves or compromise should be made now, what better incentive could we give to the leading intifadah bodies in Judea, Samaria, Gaza, Damascus, Tunis, or Jordan? They would say: We may have hit a much softer belly than we thought. The argument itself is legitimate and democratic, but the problem is one of timing and of lack of understanding that we are facing a test, as a society, among other things.

If our threshold of sensitivity is very low, the opponent is not likely to miss it. This cannot be concealed, and around the political negotiating table we may, God forbid, find ourselves having to pay a very high price in terms of long-term vital political and security interests if the other side understands that we have a low such threshold.

Therefore, the very ability to stand up as a society and to say: We find ourselves in a struggle. We want to achieve something that cannot be achieved without opposition and a conflict of interest with the other side, so it is of supreme importance that we withstand the test in a quiet, calm, and self-controlled manner. We should bite our lips, and this expression is nothing to be ashamed of. We should not radiate the pain; we should not let the other side rejoice.

[DAVAR] As for morale, morale exists on both sides of the hill. We witness increased daring and a rise in motivation on their part, as opposed to a weakening on our part at the same time.

[Baraq] Yes, there is motivation. I cannot deny there is a change on their part. They are improving. They learn all the time. Some get killed, and those left behind are the ones who managed to survive and improve.

I am convinced we will finally capture these squads and reach a situation where the appetite to join such squads will decline. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] In conclusion, our commentators say that in a year or two, when you finish your term as chief of staff, you will enter politics, and the next or later election campaign will feature Binyamin Netanyahu versus Ehud Baraq....

[Baraq] This is part of the freedom and imagination of the press. I have nothing to say on the matter.

King Husayn Addresses Arab Labor Conference

JN0504114593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in
Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Speech by King Husayn at the opening session of the Arab labor conference on 5 April in Amman—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Esteemed brothers: God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

It pleases me to extend to you a sincere Arab greeting and welcome you in your country, Jordan. You are among your kinfolk and brothers in Amman, which belongs to all Arabs. You are gathered here for a good cause in a spirit of affection, understanding and true desire to serve your nation and countries. In doing this, you proceed from this nation's common destiny and objectives and from a need for inter-Arab coordination, integration, and cooperation in order to release the Arab nation's energies and free its will toward achieving progress, awakening, and a suitable status for it among other nations.

While saying this, I am fully confident that an awakening on the part of the Arab individual can only be achieved by guaranteeing his right to a decent living, self-expression, political participation, and free advocacy of justice. This awakening requires preserving the Arab individual's right to free movement and work in his nation, as well as communicating with his brothers and fellow men everywhere.

It is high time for us to declare frankly and explicitly that the Arab individual has suffered enough frustration, oppression, estrangement, and illiteracy. The Arab individual has also been absent long enough from participating in creating his own realities and future.

It is high time for all of us to venture forth into this new age with a new, comprehensive Arab revolution under which the final say would be for peoples, not individuals, [applause] and under which the nation can have a democratic system based on freedom, tolerance, and justice.

We in Jordan have started the march with this clear vision. When you go back to your fraternal homelands you will, perhaps, convey what you have seen in Jordan and what you have come to know about this pan-Arab and democratic experiment, that on this sacred Arab land, we side with justice, defend freedom against any constraint that harms its purity and dignity [applause], and that we cling to Arab and Islamic Jerusalem, even if many swords have become lax in championing it. We continue to be against wars between the sons of our one nation. We seek to protect this nation from backsliding into pre-Islamic fanaticism because it upholds the message of great Islam and fights in its name to liberate man from polytheism, poverty, slavery, and ignorance.

Dear brothers, your meeting is an indication of a pan-Arab movement that still seeks unity of objective, purpose, and means. Its contents are characterized by many basic topics that deal with labor. Your conference will be noted as being a gathering where the representatives of all the fraternal Arab countries are meeting, not to mention the regional and international organizations that are involved in labor and the labor force. This allows it to have integrated experience and joint efforts based on serious and sincere work in one of the most important sectors of our social, economic, and national life; the sector of labor, which has grown and developed with the development of human civilization and whose constant motion has been the struggle for a better life. From this premise, we in Jordan have always believed that work is the means for development, and progress, and our weapon to overcome the scarcity of resources from which we suffer.

By devoting ourselves to preparing and training the individual for work and life, given that he is the most important factor in the development process, we have managed to attain some kind of balance and self-sufficiency in the provision of basic needs which secure for the homeland the ability to attain economic and social development. This enables it with its brothers to become a platform for a comprehensive Arab reawakening, in embodiment of the nation's historic objectives of freedom, independence, and unity for whose sake our forefathers and fathers had fought ever since they declared the Great Arab Revolt, reinvigorated its message, and defended its land and dignity [applause] against the forces of colonialism with its various faces, methods, and forms.

Brothers: We view your conference with optimism and hope, and with high appreciation and pride, considering what you will achieve in terms of results that are in harmony with the level of your ambitions and sense of responsibility toward the topics listed on your agenda that are worthy of study, discussion, and pursuit. This proceeds from the fact that work has been, is still and will remain the basis for human civilization, including all that this includes in terms of values and humanitarian, social, economic, and national ethics. This is because Arab labor agreements and their recommendations, which Jordan has always been an example in observing and safeguarding and of seeking to implement and adopt them, still need further care and commitment to implementing them. Moreover, Arab labor strategy, the integration of manpower, the rehabilitation of the handicapped and putting them to work, trade unionist freedoms in the Arab homeland, work environment, health, work safety, and other issues you will concentrate on at this conference, still constitute main issues in this or that part of the Arab homeland. We, in Jordan, have always been concerned and spared no effort to make these issues the basis of our action in coordination, planning, and organization, not only on the local level, but also on the Arab and international levels, out of our belief that progress can only be achieved through joint

Arab action and the international community, and that true awakening cannot take place without openness and interaction with the international and human community which now interact and communicate more than at any time in the past.

Dear brothers: The Jordanian Constitution, 40 years ago, laid the foundation of work values and the significance of work. It safeguarded a worker's rights and guaranteed his protection on just and clear bases. Article 23 of Jordan's Constitution reads: Work is a right for all citizens, and the state must secure it for Jordanians to strengthen and develop Jordan's economy. The Constitution also stipulates that the state should protect labor and promulgate legislations which guarantee giving the worker a salary that is commensurate with the quality and quantity of his work, defining weekly duty hours, granting the worker paid weekly and annual leaves, securing compensation for workers who are family providers in cases of dismissal, sickness, disability, and work injuries, determining conditions regarding the work of women and juveniles, applying health rules in factories, and allowing the establishment of trade unions within the purview of the law.

This legislation is also in harmony with the free, decent, and secure life we aspire to achieve for every worker. The legislation also agrees with the objectives of the Arab Labor Organization and the International Labor Office.

We will continue our efforts to score further achievements and provide further services on both the Arab and international levels to ensure that that sector can remain capable of developing and remain effective in the society's movement, development, and quest to realize progress, prosperity, and a comfortable life.

Brothers: The so-called Gulf crisis, which we tried our best to prevent, had many negative consequences for our region. It has left wounds, cracks, and estrangement among the brothers. After Kuwait and Iraq, we in Jordan were the most affected among the Arabs by the results of that crisis which have hurt all aspects of life, in social, political, and economic terms. We also had to receive enormous human waves of displaced persons and returnees and provide them with the requirements for decent life and appropriate job opportunities. This has doubled the burden of the problems we were facing, particularly all forms and types of unemployment. Despite all this, we have fulfilled our national and pan-Arab duty under these sudden, hard developments and circumstances with all sincerity, honor, and a sense of responsibility. We knew we were done injustice twice. Once, when our position on that crisis was misunderstood. And, another, when many of that crisis' consequences and destructive results, which were beyond our power, were thrown on us.

With the help of God, and with our patient, proud people's perseverance and constant readiness to offer sacrifices, we passed through that dilemma. And we hope

that our brothers will pass through the dilemmas, division, and helplessness they suffer from at the time when the world balance of power is disturbed, following the collapse of what was called the Soviet Union and the emergence of the new world order, which is based on the unilateral view and the quest of those who champion it to control this world; as well as the civil wars, famines, and racial cleansing that accompanied these developments and collapses in this or that part of the world.

At a time when we see groups of homogeneous, and sometimes heterogeneous, countries seeking new forms of cooperation or unity to protect their interests at this troubled time, we see that we are still closer to alienation and division. Hunger, illiteracy, and disease are wide spread in parts of our greater Arab homeland. Let us work for a comprehensive concept of joint Arab action and accurately review the stage and its challenges. Let clarity, frankness, and the spirit of brotherhood be the landmarks of a new way of Arab political thinking so that the whole nation can turn into a living and united fabric capable of protecting its freedom, the security of its territories, peoples, waters, food, medicine, and books; so that it will be able to shoulder the responsibility of liberating its occupied territories, foremost among which is the immortal Arab and Islamic Jerusalem [applause]; and so that it can give the Palestinian people their national rights, headed by their right to self-determination on their national soil. [applause]

Dear brethren: I welcome you again among your kinsfolk and brothers in Amman of the Arabs, which is pleased by your meeting on its pure soil and is proud to present to you the Jordanians' experience in the field of freedom, democracy, and human rights. It is similarly proud of its pan-Arab affiliation and of carrying the message of the Great Arab Revolt, its principles, values, and noble objectives [applause] that seek the unity, liberation, and renaissance of the nation—objectives that would put the Arab nation in the position that befits its history and its intellectual, scientific, and cultural contribution to mankind.

I beseech Almighty God to grant you success in your conference and in all your meetings for the good and prosperity of your nation and homeland. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Kuwaiti Official Arrives

JN0404071093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
4 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Kuwaiti Ministry of Labour Under Secretary Muhammad al-Thamir arrived in Amman Saturday leading a Kuwaiti delegation that will participate in the Arab Labour Ministers Conference due to begin Monday. In an arrival statement Mr. al-Thamir said that he and the accompanying delegation came carrying the greeting of Islam from the country of peace to attend this important conference with open hearts and minds, hoping that "we will be successful in bolstering the joint Arab action."

Parliament Holds Final Session 31 Mar

JN3103210993 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Parliament reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian uprising and called on the world community to apply international legitimacy and to stand by the Palestinian people in their struggle to attain their national rights. In a statement on Land Day, the Parliament said: It came as the Palestinian people stepped up their struggle in the face of a vicious Israeli crackdown.

The statement also reaffirmed Parliament support for the Iraqi and Libyan people in the face of an international blockade and economic sanctions.

The Parliament held its final session today and a royal decree was read out closing the ordinary session of the Parliament.

A number of ministers addressed the session replying to queries by deputies on issues related to public services. The Parliament referred a number of proposals to its panels.

The prime minister [al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir] told the House his government will investigate a news leak of the Parliament's last secret session. Al-Sharif Zayd said that cooperation between the executive and the legislative branches led to significant achievements and endorsement of new laws during the last four years. He said: These laws enhanced the citizens' freedom and set up political pluralism in the country.

Foreign Minister Confers With PLO Officials

JN0304135293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Within the framework of continued coordination and consultations between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, the foreign minister, met in his office this morning with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in the presence of al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

The conferees completed discussing the difficulties and obstacles facing the peace process and ways to confront and remove them. They also reviewed the outcome of talks which the Palestinian delegation, led by al-Husayni, held with the U.S. Administration during the delegation's recent visit to Washington.

U.S. Called 'Full Partner of Israel'

JN0304101093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Apr 93 pp 1, 32

[Editorial: "Role of Full Partner of Israel"]

[Text] We used to believe that the role of a full U.S. partner, which Warren Christopher announced during his recent Middle East tour, meant full participation in the peace process and in laying down the bases of justice and international legitimacy in the region. We also believed that such a role meant that Washington's Middle East policy would be promoted so as to reflect its historic responsibilities as a superpower that holds great principles and human values.

However, Christopher's statements to the Congress yesterday revealed another role, namely, the role of a full partner of Israel, when he outlined a U.S. policy that is the most supportive of the Zionist entity. This policy is also a most hostile U.S. policy to logic, right, and justice, and presents an opportunity for a most serious confrontation that could take place with the Arab and Islamic Worlds.

The U.S. secretary revealed plain facts about the real U.S. policy toward the region's issues when he confirmed the U.S. pledge to maintain its annual financial aid to Israel, estimated at more than \$3 billion, despite the U.S. budget deficit, and also when he affirmed Washington's support for the influx of Jewish immigrants into occupied Palestine, including the funding of programs for their accommodation there on the pretext of entrenching democracy in Israel!

This pledge was made amid questions about the sources the Clinton administration might resort to in order to provide \$1 billion for the collapsed Russian economy. However, Christopher clarified Washington's plan in this regard: Maintaining support for Israel in return for using Arab funds to support Russia. This explains Christopher's vehement campaign of criticism against the Arab Gulf states and his demand that they place their financial resources at the West's disposal in order to help the so-called encouragement of reforms in Russia.

For Washington, it will do no harm if Arab funds support the Russians and if they are used to purchase the leftovers of Western arms as long as these funds do not help the Arab brethren, who are economically exhausted and threatened by the Zionist expansion and by the presence of evil and hostile intentions.

Moreover, Christopher did not hesitate to demand that the Gulf states lift the Arab economic boycott of U.S. firms and corporations run with Israeli capital, as part of the reward which they should give following the Gulf war. At the same time, Christopher stressed Washington's eagerness to maintain political and economic pressures against Iraq and keep the embargo on it, as part of the policy of blackmail and intimidation pursued against the Gulf states.

This is happening while the Arab parties, particularly the Palestinians, who are participating in the peace process, double their efforts to resume the peace negotiations, remove the obstacles facing it, and pave the way for achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. This U.S. eagerness, as expressed by the U.S.

secretary, focuses on severing all ties with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and refusing to resume dialogue with it. This will encourage the intransigent Israeli stands in terms of escalating the inhuman and repressive practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and also in terms of the deportee problem and the issue of commitment to both the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

Secretary of State Christopher did not forget to utter more threats with tightening the embargo on Libya as part of the overall U.S. policy toward the Arab nation.

What draws attention is the fact that this new, yet old, U.S. policy, which Christopher outlined for the Middle East, has materialized after Yitzhaq Rabin's recent visit to Washington. This policy has turned the role of a full U.S. partner in the peace process into that of a full U.S. partner of Israel.

WASHINGTON POST on U.S. Iraq Statement Viewed

JN0304154793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Mar 93 p 24

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "A Word of Optimism"]

[Text] We have to be careful about the media games and should not take them at face value. What THE WASHINGTON POST has published on a U.S. statement that the United States is abandoning the "removal of Saddam Husayn" condition to end the blockade imposed on Iraq is a very suspect piece of news, seeking to prompt the White House to deny it. In political terms, this means forcing the Democratic administration to stick to the condition of "removing" Saddam Husayn in order to lift the blockade. Of course, the White House spokesman has denied that there was such a statement and reaffirmed President Clinton's policy toward Iraq; namely, that Iraq should comply with UN resolutions.

There is nothing in the UN resolutions that demands that Iraq change its political system to have the blockade imposed on it lifted. But, the U.S.-British policy during the Republican term in office was certainly raising that slogan to coerce and plunder the Arab Gulf states. However, things cannot remain the same. Iraq is a real regional power, and once the Gulf states are sucked dry, the United States, Britain, France, and Turkey will still have an interest in dealing with Iraq. Those who know about the oil deals Iraq struck in the past few months with U.S., British, and French firms know that the West has no political principles, but principles based on interests. The walls of the economic and political blockade imposed on Iraq will come down much sooner than many people expect, and the only ones who will continue to bang their heads against the Iraqi rock are those Arabs with horns of clay.

THE WASHINGTON POST is a paper influenced by the U.S. Zionist lobby. The objective of the news report, which we swallowed, was exactly the opposite. "Israel" and the al-Sabah family are the only ones interested in maintaining the blockade against Iraq and isolating it from its nation. There are also, of course, the allies of Israel and the al-Sabahs who realize that Iraq's resurgence will sabotage the peace conspiracy as designed by Israel and the United States and embarrass many of the people who bored us with statements on U.S. imperialism, "Israel", and the Arab cause.

"Israel" and the Kuwaiti rulers have a durable interest in maintaining the blockade against Iraq and paralyzing its regional power. The United States and its agents in the region also have an interest in keeping Iraq isolated and besieged during this phase at least.

The blow that failed to kill Iraq will strengthen it, and Iraq will emerge from the blockade stronger than ever before. We can bet on this.

Saddam, Iraq's 'National Government' To Stay

JN0304202693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Mar 93 p 2

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Iraq and Imminent Relief"]

[Text] U.S. political and press circles acknowledge the Iraqi people's legendary steadfastness, their endurance and patience, their strong will and determination, their insistence on confronting challenges, and their support for and rallying around their leadership. These circles also admit that the national government in Iraq is strong and deep-rooted and that the Iraqi leadership is able to secure the money it needs to rebuild what was destroyed by the 30-state aggression.

The U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES said: "The government in Iraq is strong and firm and enjoys the Iraqi people's support."

What is strange is that after White House sources announced that Washington was no longer interested in toppling Saddam Husayn, they reaffirmed that toppling Saddam was a top priority. Are there two opinions in the Clinton administration?

However, experience has proved that the national government in Iraq will stay, is strong and firm, and enjoys enough popular support, whether the U.S. Administration wishes it that or not.

It has also been proved to the whole world that despite the unjust blockade imposed on them, the Iraqi people are able to make miracles, achieve legendary development, and depend on themselves in securing the requirements for construction, development, and progress.

It has also been proved to the whole world that the United States, Britain, France, or Yeltsin's Russia is unable to topple the national government in Iraq, harm

the Iraqi people, or shake their confidence in their leadership. Although some Arab states and other states considering themselves Muslims are still taking part in maintaining the blockade on Iraq to avoid U.S. anger, the second al-Qadisiyah [battle with Iran] people will not lose confidence in their Arab nation, their affiliation with Arabism, and their hope that the Arab peoples will rise up to lift the unjust blockade and back the Iraqi people to confront their nation's enemies and their conspiracies.

Iraq still considers itself an efficient partner in achieving and protecting Arab plans for progress. It still stands in its nation's trench and will not allow the destruction of its steadfastness, progress, and awakening.

Iraq will continue to believe in the Arab nation's ability to confront the enemy conspiracies and challenges. It will not weaken as a result of the blockade, which is imposed on it to isolate it, encircle it, and paralyze its pan-Arab and regional role.

Iraq knows that it is being targeted, whether it complies with Security Council resolutions or not, because Arab awakening plans are targeted. The Serbs belittle Security Council resolutions and defy the United States and its allies. Neither the hands of the American octopus nor the entire West could do anything.

The DPRK defies the United States and its allies but the Clinton can not do anything. Little Cuba, with its modest potential, is defying the United States and has not suffered any damage.

Why do the Arabs participate in the unjust blockade on Iraq, and why do they obey the United States and deny Arab and Islamic brotherhood?

Why do they listen to the enemy and turn a deaf ear to the calls of the heavens and to their righteous religion?

Those who are wagering on the possibility, the mere possibility, of the fall of the government in Iraq, are completely deluded.

The government in Iraq, as it is very clear, is stronger, firmer, and more popular than all the Hafar al-Batin regimes [international coalition against Iraq]. This is what the U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES admitted and tangible facts proved. We tell the deluded people that Iraq has begun to come out of the neck of the bottle, and that signs that Iraq's difficulties will end have begun appearing in the horizon. U.S. allies themselves are anxious to conclude economic and trade agreements with it. Iraq also began to send its experts to fraternal countries to contribute to their development projects.

The coming months or weeks will be full of surprises, which will not please those who are captives to their grudges, conspiracies, and mad desires to take revenge against Iraq. Those who oppose Jordan's pan-Arab role and do not listen to its honest and sincere calls will lose. Assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take! [Koranic verse]

President al-Hirawi Returns From Saudi Arabia

NC0404163793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Dispatch by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din from the Presidential Headquarters in Beirut—recorded]

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his accompanying delegation returned to Beirut at 1745 this evening after a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. While there, the president met with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, as well as senior Saudi officials. The following statement was issued by the president's office:

His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has concluded his visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. President al-Hirawi conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques greetings from the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, Cabinet, and people. They discussed what Saudi Arabia could contribute toward the reconstruction of Lebanon. The results of the talks were positive, particularly with respect to facilitating the reunion of Lebanese working in Saudi Arabia with their families. Arrangements for completing the talks between the Lebanese and Saudi officials on all subjects of common interest under discussion have been agreed upon. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Leaves for Meeting in Syria With Khaddam

NC0304095793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has accepted Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's invitation to a luncheon at noon today. The event will provide an opportunity to discuss Lebanese domestic and regional issues. The prime minister left for Syria a short while ago.

Returns Following Talks

NC0304201993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] At 2000 today, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut from Damascus where he held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and senior Syrian officials.

Hizballah, Israel Close to Agreement on Prisoner Exchange

NC0604110093 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 5 Apr 93 pp 16, 17

[Excerpts] According to information exclusive to AL-SHIRA', it has become certain that, barring any surprises, Israeli airman Ron Arad and the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers who were detained in Lebanon a few years ago will be released within the next few weeks.

This reliable information confirms that "almost total agreement" was reached a few days ago between Hizballah and Israel on the principle of exchanging the Israeli airman and the two bodies for Lebanese detainees in the al-Khiyam prison and Arab detainees in Israeli prisons. This agreement is due to be finalized at a face-to-face meeting that will take place very soon in Paris between Hizballah and Israeli delegations under the joint sponsorship of France and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

What is the story behind this agreement? What were the developments and circumstances that took place behind the scenes to produce this agreement away from the limelight?

AL-SHIRA' has obtained the details of the developments and circumstances of the "agreement," on which the final touches are expected to be placed in Paris within the coming days. Our exclusive information shows that successive contacts have been held to produce this deal on prisoner exchange.

The story began in Paris more than a month ago when Tel Aviv asked Paris to broker an agreement between Israel and Hizballah, defining the "reasonable price" that Hizballah is demanding for the release of the Israeli airman and the two soldiers' bodies. It seems that Paris found no embarrassment in accepting this role for several reasons, the most important of which was the enthusiasm being displayed by the international community to close this file. If its efforts are successful, France will receive the respect and admiration of the international community, something it needs at this point in its pioneering endeavors to unite Europe. Furthermore, this will reinforce its attempts to find a role to play in the search for a solution to the Middle East problem. [passage omitted]

According to our information, as soon as it agreed to mediate a prisoner exchange agreement, the French Government instructed its embassy in Lebanon to begin behind-the-scenes contacts in Beirut to accomplish this objective. The first practical step by the embassy was a visit by an important embassy official—the information did not confirm whether it was Ambassador Husson himself—to Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. During the meeting, Fadlallah was informed of the French initiative. Fadlallah praised this endeavor, but said he is not the appropriate party for negotiations on this issue. He promised that he will spare no effort to help bring the French mediation to a happy conclusion. [passage omitted]

The French mediation in Beirut made tangible progress last week on its road to concluding an agreement. This progress is represented in the secret meeting held in the Southern Suburb, at a house belonging to a Shiite businessman. His main activities in Lebanon are purchasing and selling estates. He also has other widespread businesses in Africa. The Shiite businessman has close links with Paris and Hizballah, which encouraged the French

Embassy in Beirut to rely on him to play a role similar to the one played by Lebanese businessmen in the late eighties as a godfather accepted by all parties concerned with the issue. His task is to convey viewpoints and set up a timetable for holding secret meetings between the parties to the agreement.

Our information reveals that the meeting was attended by a number of Hizballah ranking officials and French Ambassador Husson. During the meeting, the possibilities of exchanging the Israeli prisoners for the Arab and Lebanese detainees held in the Israeli prisons was discussed. The Hizballah representatives conveyed their leadership's principled agreement to Ambassador Husson on the swap issue in a bid to end this situation that has been rejected internationally.

After reviewing the two sides' demands and their outlook for implementing the swap of prisoners, the conferees discussed a proposal presented by Ambassador Husson. The French proposal provides for arranging a direct meeting between the Israelis and Hizballah security representatives in Paris. The objective of the meeting is to finalize the meeting that was worked out in principle in Beirut. This would help carry out the swap agreement under the International Red Cross within a few weeks.

The information adds that Hizballah conveyed its approval of the Paris meeting to the French ambassador, despite attempts to convince certain Hizballah leadership members to reject the principle of a direct meeting with the Israelis. [passage omitted]

At any rate, pending the outcome of the Paris meeting, there are many questions that have so far been left unanswered. The first one concerns the real whereabouts of Israeli pilot Ron Arad. According to several security sources, the Israeli pilot is in Iran, not a Hizballah detention camp. This means that any negotiations over this issue will remain incomplete unless Tehran is involved. Tehran might, under the current circumstances, demand a higher price in return for closing this dossier.

The second question pertains to the information that confirms that the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers are held by the Amal Movement. This means that Hizballah is not the only party involved in the issue. If the information is correct, it is bound to cause a vital change in the course of the Paris-brokered negotiations.

Fatah Fires Rockets at Israel To Retaliate for 'Murder'

NC0604113093 Paris AFP in English 1024 GMT
6 Apr 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, April 6 (AFP) - A PLO group fired rockets at Israel but they fell short and crashed into a buffer zone in south Lebanon without causing casualties, Palestinian and Israeli sources said Tuesday.

The PLO's mainstream Fatah group said it fired the rockets at northern Israel on Monday, in its first such claim since the Middle East peace process was launched in October 1991.

But the Israeli army reported no such attack, while Israeli-backed militiamen in south Lebanon said several rockets landed in a rocky region of Israel's self-declared "security zone" without causing casualties.

The attack was in retaliation for the assassination last Thursday of Yunis 'Awwad, the Fatah chief for the Beirut region, a spokesman for the group said.

Fatah has blamed the murder on both Israel and Syria, charging that Damascus ordered the elimination of its members to force the Palestinians to resume peace talks with Israel.

The Palestinians refuse to return to the negotiating table until a solution is found to Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon in December. Syria, Lebanon and Jordan are also partners in the peace process.

SLA Radio Reports Casualties in 3 Apr Clash

NC0404072293 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in
Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Two terrorists were killed and two Israelis injured yesterday during a clash between an Israeli Army force and a group of terrorists in the western sector of the border area.

Shortly afterward, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and the terrorists exchanged shell fire. An SLA soldier was martyred during the shelling.

Israeli, Lahd Militia Activity Reported in South

NC0504054093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430
GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Israel escalated its aggression against the south yesterday, as enemy forces set up a roadblock on the Arnun-Yuhmur road, checking vehicles and passengers and preventing residents from entering and leaving Arnun and Yuhmur. The residents of these two villages were forced to stay home. The Kafr Tibnit-Arnun road came under machine-gun fire from occupation positions on Tallat al-Burj, paralyzing movement on this road.

The enemy earlier shelled the villages of Arnun, Yuhmur, Mazra'at al-Hamra', the al-Litani River basin, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. The shelling was accompanied by intensive enemy helicopter overflights, including raking operations on the valleys between the al-Litani River and Zawtar. The shelling extended to Iqlim al-Tuffah areas. Two Israeli helicopters overflew the line extending from Qal'at al-Shaqif to the al-Litani River, raking the area with large-caliber machine guns and releasing thermal balloons. Reconnaissance aircraft also overflew the area.

According to security reports from the al-Nabatiyah area, al-Luwayzah, Mlita, and Jabal Safi came under artillery fire from Agent Lahd militia positions on the hills overlooking Zifta.

Islamic Resistance Fires on Nepalese UNIFIL Position

NC0504095293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has announced that Islamic Resistance members opened fire on a position manned by the Nepalese contingent in al-Hinniyyah on Sunday, 4 April. The fight occurred seven hours after a clash between the resistance and the Israeli enemy in the area. The Nepalese position was hit from several directions, but there were no casualties. The Nepalese force returned fire.

The UNIFIL sources also reported that a vehicle carrying two UNIFIL officers was hit by bullets on the Kafra road two hours later. The vehicle sustained damage but the officers escaped injury. The sources said gunmen attacked a Nepalese contingent lookout post in al-Siddiqin-Jibal al-Butm area with machine guns. The personnel manning the post, who were uninjured, returned fire.

Hizballah Claims Israeli Casualties in Attack 5 Apr

NC0604071293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] While the government is busy with internal affairs and the officials are preoccupied with imaginary aid, the south, with its land and steadfast people, remains the chief concern of the honorable and heroic resistance. Through their jihad operations against the occupation forces, they teach the Arab and Islamic nation that there will be no peace or stability in the region as long as a foreign object—indeed a microbe—continues gradually to devour the body of this nation.

The logic of resistance and struggle proved to be the only way to salvation for this nation. This is demonstrated by the resistance's sacrifices and epics, which forced the enemy to retreat, proving that the current capitulation negotiations neither restore land nor build a homeland.

With pride and dignity, the Islamic Resistance demonstrated new heroism yesterday afternoon. The mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance attacked an enemy complex in

Balat, in the western sector, with machine guns and rockets, killing or injuring many soldiers.

Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah said the skies of Iqlim al-Tuffah were the scene of intensive overflights by enemy warplanes, which lit the region with flares and thermal balloons.

Arrivals from the occupied strip report that the enemy Army demolished and bulldozed eight houses in the town of al-Qantarah in Marj 'Uyun without cause. Earlier yesterday, the occupation forces shelled the al-Litani River basin and the areas near Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah with mortars. The woods of Yuhmur-al-Shaqif came under artillery shelling originating from enemy positions in Arnun.

Army Dismantles Missiles in South Aimed at Border Area

NC0404112593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] According to security reports from the south, the Lebanese Army this morning discovered four missiles erected in Wadi Zawtar and aimed at the eastern sector of the border area. The missiles were dismantled and moved to another location.

According to other reports, people are leaving Zibqin for safer areas. The township came under Israeli bombardment last night. The bombardment extended to Kafra, Yatar, al-'Izziyah, and the al-Batn hills.

Army Seizes 15 Truckloads of Weapons in Search Operations

NC0204173093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate has issued the following statement: In the context of the military establishment's continued storm-and-search operations in all Lebanese areas, Lebanese Army units carried out extensive raids in the following areas on 1 and 2 April: Harat Hurayk, al-Awza'i, al-Shiyah, and al-Janah in Beirut's southern suburb; al-Jiyah township on the al-Shuf coast; Salima, Zibdin, and [placename indistinct] in the mountains; al-Qattarah township in Jubayl; and Mazra'at 'Akkar in the north.

The raids resulted in the seizure of various types of weapons, ammunition, and mines in a quantity large enough to require 15 trucks to move. Several arms merchants were arrested.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar: Rabbani Unwilling To Hand Over Power

BK0504145293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT
5 Apr 93

[Text] Charasyab, Afghanistan, April 5 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar hinted at a press conference Monday that a failure of agreement on his cabinet could again push Kabul towards the brink of war.

After President Borhanoddin Rabbani received Hekmatyar's cabinet proposals Friday, the presidential spokesman said he reserved the right to approve, change or to consult with the other mujahedin leaders about them.

Hekmatyar flatly rejected the president's analysis of the March 7 Islamabad Accords, which gave him the right to form a cabinet, by saying consultations had been concluded.

"The fact of the issue is that the other side wants the present government to continue without change. They consider themselves not bound by the Islamabad Accords," stated Hekmatyar.

"I feel the other side is trying to violate the Islamabad Accords and gradually make them null and void—despite the fact these accords are the last chance for the peaceful settlement of the Afghan crisis," Hekmatyar alleged.

He went on to say, without naming them, some of the parties were trying to restart the fighting that has plagued the mujahedin administration of Kabul by discrediting and violating the Islamabad accords.

In reply to a question on the inevitability of war between Rabbani's Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] faction and his Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], Hekmatyar replied: "We resent war. We will avoid war as long as it is not imposed on us".

Journalists travelling to Hekmatyar's Charasyab headquarters, about 15 kilometers (nine miles) south of the capital, took note of the fact that a fully loaded 40-barrelled Russian-made rocket launcher by the side of the road had its dust cover off, as did one of two field artillery guns.

Hekmatyar reiterated that he had dissolved the previous cabinet but that Rabbani had issued a decree that they continue working.

He said the previous cabinet has no mandate, no legal right whatsoever and has been replaced by a new one.

"The Islamabad Accords gave the right solely to the prime minister to form the new cabinet. Logically, the person who can form the institution can dissolve it too," asserted Hekmatyar.

"I wonder per which clause in the accords the president gives orders for the continuation of the dissolved cabinet regardless of the views or consent of the prime minister," Hekmatyar went on.

He also charged that the demand for more consultations by the president and other mujahedin faction leaders was just a pretext for staying on in power.

Hekmatyar claimed the Jam'iyat representative at the previous meeting explicitly stated there was no need for a joint leaders' assembly, but that separate consultation was sufficient.

"The problem is not over consultation but that some parties didn't get the portfolio they were insisting on," added Hekmatyar.

He joked that unfortunately there were not two or three defence ministries in the cabinet, but added on a more serious note that the majority of the parties got what they wanted.

Two key ministries at issue are defence, currently held by Rabbani's right-hand man Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and interior, under Rabbani's ally Rasool Sayyaf of Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union Party] faction.

Hekmatyar however conceded that he could have handled the cabinet issue more adroitly, saying: "I confess I made a mistake by not resolving the issue of cabinet in a joint meeting, but it was Jam'iyat who said this was not required."

But even the simplest Afghans—who will suffer the most if fighting breaks out again—understand the problem between the mujahedin party leaders is not one of semantics or legal rights - but one of mutual willingness to cooperate for genuine power-sharing.

Nevertheless Hekmatyar signalled the door was not closed.

"For the sake of preventing hostilities and salvaging Afghanistan I am prepared to go anywhere and talk to anyone," Hekmatyar declared.

The prime minister, who has yet to publicly announce the membership of his cabinet, would not comment on the veracity of lists published in certain Pakistan newspapers.

"I have not seen those lists yet. I have only seen my list," he said.

Pakistani Ambassador Calls On Rabbani

BK0604013893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan Amir Usman called on Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul and conveyed a message of good wishes from the president and the prime minister. He expressed the Pakistan Government's satisfaction at efforts being

made to constitute a new cabinet and hoped that a mutually acceptable cabinet will be announced in the near future. Reciprocating the sentiments expressed by the Pakistani leaders, President Rabbani said that he hopes peace and tranquility will be established in Afghanistan as a result of the Islamabad peace accord.

The Pakistan ambassador also called on the Afghan foreign minister and discussed matters of mutual interest.

India

Situation on Jammu, Kashmir Line of Control

Precautionary Vigil Continues

BK0604032493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, precautionary vigil all along the Line of Control and the India-Pakistan border continues for the third day today. An official spokesman told the AIR [All India Radio] Jammu correspondent this morning that no incident has been reported from any part of the border in the last two days.

The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, who toured different areas of Doda District yesterday, said that the special constitutional status of J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] will be maintained. Addressing people at Bardhal, Kishtwar and Doda, he appealed to the misguided youth to lay down their arms. He said they will be rehabilitated if they shun violence.

Situation 'Peaceful'

BK0504160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation along the Line of Control remains peaceful on the second day today. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent this evening that no untoward incident has been reported from the border areas. Precautionary vigil is being maintained by security forces all along the border in the wake of the threatened violation of border by some groups in Pak-occupied Kashmir. The spokesman said the Indian security forces are under strict instruction not to allow violation of the border under any circumstances.

Operations Against Militants Continue

BK0404032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor general, K.V. Krishna Rao, says he is keen to have elections in the state within six months as there is considerable improvement of the law and order situation. Addressing a meeting at Punch, General Rao pointed out that a three-pronged

strategy is being implemented to ensure complete normalcy in the Kashmir valley. He said relentless operations against militants will continue and appealed to the people to help in creating a congenial atmosphere.

The governor reiterated his appeal to the misguided youths to lay down arms and return to national mainstream.

Punjab Bus Bomb Blast Kills 5

BK0504133893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were killed and 45 others injured in a bomb blast in a Punjab Roadways bus coming from Ludhiana near the Amritsar bus stand today. According to the police, the blast occurred when the passengers were getting down from the bus. The injured have been admitted to various hospitals in Amritsar. The police have not ruled out the possibility of militants' involvement in the explosion.

Negative Impact of Bombay Bombings 'Fading'

BK0504093993 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Speakers identified by screen caption]

[Text] Following the bomb blasts in Bombay and Calcutta, reports suggested that the country's tourism and business interests were adversely affected, but a quick recovery on the social and economic front has brought about a turnaround. More details in this report:

[Begin recording] [Jagmohan Bhasin] The tide is turning. The Pacific Area Travel Association [PATA] which had postponed its international meet in India has now changed track. It will now hold its meet in New Delhi from the 29th of this month. This decision is a major boost for the tourism industry because PATA members wield considerable clout in their respective countries and can successfully divert tourist traffic to India. The tourism industry is also buoyant because the United States State Department has withdrawn its travel advice asking its citizens to avoid going to New Delhi.

[Rod Fountain, publisher] As you know, we launched the latest issue of the magazine the week after the Bombay bombings and we were very concerned that maybe there would be a fall of an interest. In fact, the reverse has been the case, if anything, the way the Bombay go back to work is an indication to [word indistinct] companies and the resilience of the people here.

[Jagmohan Bhasin] In the aviation field, India is still an attractive destination for international airlines. Recently, Korean Airlines began operations in India and in disposing passenger volume from this country as compared to recession-hit Europe, international airlines are not complaining. With the decline in the hawala [illegal financial transactions] business and increase in remittances from abroad, foreign exchange reserves are rising. They are now estimated to be about \$6 billion.

And with the rupee still going strong against the dollar, the negative impact following the bomb blasts is fading.

[Rod Fountain] Mustn't forget that we need India who's having her own problems. We need your markets, we need your... [changes thought] some of your technology, we need your cost structure base [words indistinct], we need your positive attitude. [end recording]

Pakistan Intelligence Said Financially Independent

BK0604092993 *Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 28 Mar 93 p 7*

[By Milind Khandekar]

[Text] ISI. In India this acronym customarily stood for the Indian Standard Institute. The mark was a symbol of quality on goods made in India. But throughout the world ISI has become synonymous with terrorism. ISI stands for Inter-Services Intelligence—Pakistan's Intelligence Agency. It is suspected to be behind the Bombay bomb blasts.

Pakistan established the Inter-Services Intelligence Coordination Bureau in 1948 for spying in the defense field. Other than this agency, Military Intelligence and the Directorate of Intelligence were also active at that time. Because of these two agencies, the ISI was not given much significance.

The ISI's fortunes turned around when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became the prime minister in the seventies. He started using this intelligence agency for his own benefit. Bhutto entrusted the agency with the task of keeping an eye on his personal foes, both at home and abroad. The CIA and Israel's Mossad lent assistance in personnel training. From that time onward, the ISI gradually began to influence Pakistani politics. Former Finance Minister Mubashir Hassan even described it as "the biggest source of corruption," but Bhutto overlooked his statement.

In 1977, the ISI reduced Bhutto to ashes. The then ISI chief, Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani, in collusion with General Ziaul Haq overthrew Bhutto. Zia later appointed Jilani as the governor of Punjab as a "reward for allegiance." While in Punjab, Jilani taught Nawaz Sharif the finer points of politics and Sharif is now the prime minister of Pakistan.

After overthrowing Bhutto, the ISI never looked back. It used the beginning of the Afghan war in 1987 as its golden opportunity. The Soviet Union had sent about 100,000 troops to Afghanistan. Obviously, the United States did not relish this and decided to help the Afghan mojahedin teach the Soviet Union a lesson. Pakistan became a willing partner in this endeavor. The ISI was given the great responsibility of training and supplying arms to the mojahedin. It not only ably discharged this responsibility, but also used the U.S. funds and arms for its own benefit.

Pakistan was anxious for a long time to avenge its defeat at the hands of India in the 1971 war. It started using all of the experience it gained in Afghanistan against India. Young men from Punjab and Kashmir were selected for training in Pakistan in acts of terrorism. Now the same thing is being done in Bombay, but so far the plan has been frustrated.

Other than creating confusion in countries considered enemies of Pakistan, the ISI is also active at home. On the domestic front, its job is to monitor the activities of Opposition politicians and foil all efforts to reduce the armed forces' grip on power. After coming to power, Benazir Bhutto formed the Zulfikar Ali Khan Committee to review the agency's operations. She also transferred the agency chief, Hamid Gul. She paid the price for this by being dismissed from power soon after. After Benazir's removal, Hamid Gul was reappointed ISI chief.

Although no authoritative information is available on the ISI, it is said that about 25,000 agents are working for it worldwide. Many of its agents work in Pakistan's missions abroad and are accountable to ISI headquarters in Islamabad, not to the ambassadors concerned.

The ISI is now said to be financially self-sufficient. In the beginning, it was dependent on government funding, but during the Afghan war it started receiving money from the United States. In a report in 1987-88, the U.S. Congress accused the ISI of funneling away 25 billion rupees out of the 75 billion rupees sent for the Afghan refugees.

After the Afghan war ended, the ISI started using the idle mojahedin for narcotics trafficking. The profits earned from this business made it possible for the ISI to no longer require government assistance. That is why observers doubt that the Nawaz Sharif government will be able to keep the ISI under control in spite of international pressure.

It is now being said that the noted narcotics traffickers were behind what happened in Bombay recently. It is possible that the ISI was also involved because Pakistan is now a safe haven for narcotics traffickers. Unfortunately, the chance of unearthing conspiracies being hatched by the ISI with the help of narcotics traffickers appears remote.

Reportage on Visit of Mauritian President

Economic Ties Promoted

BK0204160693 *Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93*

[Text] India and Mauritius have stressed the need to evolve new strategies to promote bilateral economic cooperation. Speaking at a banquet, given in honor of the visiting president of Mauritius, Mr. Cassam Uteem, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said the world is witnessing an era of historic change and opportunity with an overall reduction of tension. This has to be

translated into effective cooperation among developing countries. He said India and Mauritius have multifaceted cooperation based on a commonality of interests.

In his reply, the Mauritius president said the bilateral relations between the two countries not only covered a wide range of economic and other activities, but also stood as a perfect and concrete example of south-south cooperation. Praising the new economic reforms launched in India, he said this will further strengthen the economy bringing about all around development in the country.

Earlier, the Mauritian president accompanied by a high-level delegation arrived in New Delhi on a eight-day official visit to India.

Economic Ties Sought

BK0404053493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Commentary by M.K. Tikku]

[Text] It would be no use to say that Mauritius has had a close and cordial relationship with India. It just could not have been different, particularly for a nation over 68 percent of whose population comprises of people of Indian origin.

During the 19th and the early decades of the 20th century, many Indians left their homes to take up work on the small Indian Ocean country under the aegis of the British colonial rulers. Many of these people still have associations with the places they came from in Bihar, eastern U.P. [Uttar Pradesh], and elsewhere. Thus, historical, ethnic, and cultural ties bind the people of Mauritius and India in a close kinship.

But the true significance of the week-long visit of the Mauritius president, Mr. Cassam Uteem, to India, which began on Friday, lies elsewhere. Both the countries are currently engaged in implementing economic reform programs and it is in this area that they are trying to explore and establish new linkages of interdependence.

Traditionally, the mainstay of the Mauritius economy was its flourishing sugarcane industry and international tourism. But as it became clear by the early eighties, sugarcane and tourism were not enough to absorb all the jobless whose (?hands are swelling). Though the unemployment position has vastly improved since then, Mauritius has come to modernize its economy to its fuller potential and it is here that Mauritius is looking forward to greater Indian participation specially in areas of joint ventures. Since then, [word indistinct] have already started moving in that direction.

India is the second largest aid giver to Mauritius. The trade between the two countries has been registering a marked increase. Several Indian entrepreneurs have already initiated steps for joint participation in Mauritius. The Indian Government has already set aside a revolving fund of 20 crore rupees for assistance in setting

up joint ventures. Even the number of Indian tourist arrivals in Mauritius have more than doubled in less than three years to cross 10,000 last year. This by itself is an indicator of the growing people to people contact.

Mauritius has set up an export promotion zone which has been doing well. It will soon set up an off shore business center and a free port. Mauritius is keen that India should treat it as a gateway for its trade with countries of the African continent and even Europe and thus turn Indo-Mauritius economic relations, as President Uteem said shortly after his arrival in New Delhi on Friday, into a perfect and concrete example of South-South cooperation.

President Calls Visit 'Fruitful'

BK0504080293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The president of Mauritius, Mr. Cassam Uteem, said his visit to India has further strengthened the economic and cultural relations between the two countries. Speaking to newsmen at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] before leaving for Jaipur today, Mr. Cassam Uteem said his talks with Indian leaders were fruitful and they shared common views on many major issues.

The ceremonial departure was attended by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and other dignitaries.

Bilateral Meeting With Japan Ends 2 Apr

BK0204162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The two-day Indo-Japan Consultative Committee meeting ended in New Delhi today. The two sides discussed the international and the regional situation and bilateral matters. Arms control, disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and other issues also came up. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the bilateral consultations were useful in deepening mutual understanding between the two countries.

Nambiar Named New Defense Secretary

BK0404084893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The defense secretary, Mr. N.N. Vohra, has been appointed the home secretary. According to an official spokesman, Mr. K.A. Nambiar, presently chairman of the Food Corporation of India, will be the new defense secretary.

CPI-M Front Gains Majority in Tripura Polls

BK0604090893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Excerpt] In the Tripura Assembly elections, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]-led Left Front has

secured an absolute majority, bagging 31 out of 36 results so far. The state assembly has 60 members. According to agency reports, the Congress- I-TUJS [Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti] Combine has won four seats only. The CPI-M has bagged 28 seats, while its partners RSP [Revolutionary Social Party] two and Forward Bloc one. One seat has gone to an independent. [passage omitted]

Impact of Gold Import Liberalization Policy Viewed

BK0204132093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Commentary by Mita Sanghvi]

[Text] The government has announced two schemes for direct import of gold of 18 carats and above. These are for the benefit of the exporting units situated in the Domestic Tariff Area—DTA. The first scheme is for export units situated in DTA under replenishment. Under this scheme, a nontransferable replenishment license is (given) at the rate of 87 percent and 80 percent of the FOB [Free on Board] value of exports on export of plain gold jewelry and studded gold jewelry respectively. These licenses are valid for import of gold of 0.995 fineness, gold windings, mountings, solders up to 0.920 fineness up to 10 percent of the value of the license and rough diamond, rough colored gem stones, and real or cultured pearls unrased and unset for the residual value.

The second scheme is on pre-export basis for export production by units situated in DTA under gold import license. This scheme entails a nontransferable gold import license issued on pre-export basis to an exporter who has an annual average export performance of plain and studded gold jewelry of 30 million rupees and above. The value of the license is equivalent to the exporter's best year's export performance during the preceding three licensing years plus a 25 percent thereon. The license is subject to the conditions that the gold import license issued for export of plain gold jewelry and studded gold jewelry carries export obligations in inverse ratio of 87 percent respectively. The export obligation has to be fulfilled within 120 days from the date of clearance of each consignment of gold and the license is in terms of value and is valid for import of gold of 0.995 fineness. These schemes coexist with the new gold import policy announced recently by the government. These two schemes are linked with exports and have no relevance with the domestic prices.

The liberalization of gold and silver imports has paid rich dividends with the government having succeeded in mobilizing additional revenue to the tune of 3,000 million rupees till 15 March. Following the liberalization of silver imports from 9 February, the country has seen a total import of 382 tons of this metal which was otherwise being smuggled into the country. The government collected a total revenue of 190 million rupees on this account as customs duty. The total gold imports till

15 March under the liberalized scheme, which was announced on 1 March last year, was a colossal 127 tons, which enabled the government to beef up its revenue collecting through customs duty to the extent of 2,880 million rupees.

The country's total requirement of gold in terms of fresh arrivals ranges between 185 and 190 tons annually. With the total official imports being 127 tons till 15 March, there is ample scope for increasing the level of import this year by taking effective measures against smugglers. Following the liberalization, smuggling operations have come down sharply with the total imports through unofficial channels said to be ranging between 60 tons and 70 tons to cover the total annual demand. A chunk of the official imports of gold are said to be coming into the southern states and Delhi. Arrivals at Bombay are comparatively less due to the octroi problem in Bombay. As a result, prices of (wrought) gold are lower by 1,000 rupees per 10 grams in south India. A similar price difference has emerged in case of silver, too. Even after the liberalization, the pricing mechanism of this precious metal has not undergone any change as the major suppliers continue to dominate the market by controlling prices by keeping a check on the demand and supply. As regards silver, officials believe that the level of imports will rise sharply, if the trend in the very first month of operation of the scheme is any indication.

South Meeting Considers Third World Debt

BK0304095893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] An international conference in New Delhi has called for adoption of balanced development strategies for the Third World developing countries. The three-day conference on challenges facing the developing countries was jointly organized by the Geneva-based South Commission and the Research and Information System for the Nonaligned Countries. The participants included the South Commission chairman and former Tanzanian President Dr. Julius Nyerere and the renowned Indian economist, Dr. I.G. Patel. The conference said that the role of the government is vital even as the developing countries are undertaking reform programs. Referring to the debt problem faced by several developing countries, the conference has said that most of the schemes aimed at reducing the debt burden were only designed to protect the interests of creditors. It has described the reverse transfer of resources from developing countries to the developed countries as a paradox without parallel. The conference has urged that a suitable strategy should be evolved to reduce the indebtedness of the developing countries.

Minister: Dunkel Proposal To Benefit Farmers

BK0304141293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, says the Dunkel proposal, if accepted, would actually

benefit the farmers. The farmers would not have to pay royalty for patents under the proposal, as there is no patenting for livestock and seeds. Mr. Mukherjee was addressing a national seminar in Calcutta today.

Heavy Electricals' Profit Over 53 Crore Rupees

BK040404093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The Bharat Heavy Electricals has achieved a record production of 741 crore rupees during the year 1992-93. This was announced by its executive director, Mr. S.K. Handa in Bhopal. He said the undertaking has not only crossed the production target of 740 crore rupees but registered a pre-tax profit of over 53 crore rupees.

'Bumper' 56 Million Tons Wheat Harvest Expected

BK0404091093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Wheat procurement in the current marketing season is expected to be 10 million tons, about 4 million tons more than last year. This will be possible due to a bumper harvest of 56 million tons of wheat and enhanced support price. Procurement officials told visiting newsmen in Chandigarh recently that the arrival of wheat in the main markets in the major wheat belt of Punjab and Haryana has been delayed because of unseasonal rains. The state government officials, however, expressed confidence that the procurement process will pick up by the middle of this month.

Council Endorses Recommendations for Wage Freeze

BK0504163093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The National Development Council today endorsed the recommendations of the Biju Patnaik Committee which called for a one-year freeze on additional DA [Dearness—cost of living—Allowance] and a pay revision and increase in power tariff, irrigation rates, bus fares, and higher education tuition fees.

While endorsing the committee's recommendations, the Council felt that there is need for national consensus and wider consultations on the recommendations and the exercise should be undertaken by the Planning Commission. The consultations will include political parties, trade unions, employers organizations, and others on austerity measures. In another significant move, the Council also decided to set up a chief ministers' committee on power to examine measures to make state electricity boards economically viable by recasting tariffs and improving efficiency.

Giving details, the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that the Biju Patnaik Committee, which was set up in May 1992, recommended, among other things, that there should be

no general expansion in employment in the government sector and no further release of additional DA for one year in the government, public, and organized private sectors. The committee had also recommended that there should be no pay revision in government during the period and examination of the current DA formula. The committee had also recommended no bonus to government servants and no encashment of surrendered earned leave except at the time of superannuation. Leave travel concession other than home travel should be discontinued.

The Biju Patnaik Committee also called for raise in electricity tariff, irrigation rates, bus fares, and tuition fees for higher education and exclusion of income tax payers from public distribution system. It recommended that only small and marginal farmers and landless laborers in the rural areas should be covered under this system. Concessions in higher education should be based on economic criteria and for women. It also called for a uniform sales tax rate on a national basis. The committee recommended that the state electricity boards should realize a 3 percent return on network and a 5 percent return by state transport corporations to put them on a sound economic footing. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said that there was general endorsement of the recommendations of the Biju Patnaik Committee and the Planning Commission will undertake wider consultations to arrive at a consensus. He said unless corrective measures are taken immediately, there will be serious repercussions on the development expenditure.

Earlier, addressing the meeting, the prime minister called upon the planners to give top priority to rural development and generation of power in their planning. Mr. Narasimha Rao said that between these two programs, large part of the developmental activities can be summed up. He said 30,000 crore rupees have already been allocated in the eighth plan for rural development. The prime minister urged the chief ministers to place the management of power completely above politics as it is fundamental to growth and development. He asked them to concentrate on this vital sector and, if necessary, take hard decisions. He also asked the chief ministers to seriously consider the situation and cut the nonplan expenditure.

Iran

GCC Statement on Claims to 'Iranian Islands' Reported

NC0604093393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The GCC members have once again supported claims by the United Arab Emirates on three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. In a statement issued at the end of their session in Riyadh, the foreign ministers of the six Persian Gulf littoral Arab states have said that Tehran's stance on the three islands of Abu Musa,

Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek is a threat to regional security and stability. In this statement the GCC members have rejected Iran's proposal on the mode of talks on this problem, but have stressed their support for the Arab countries' talks with the Zionist regime. Also, the Riyadh statement lauds America's role in solving the Middle East problem.

GCC Foreign Ministers Meeting in Riyadh Viewed

NC0604092593 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 6 Apr 93*

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] The two-day session of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers in Riyadh ended yesterday after issuing a statement. The GCC's security pact with Egypt and Syria was one of the important topics on this session's agenda, and once again the Persian Gulf's Arab shaykhdoms did not reach an agreement on it.

Before this, during their one-day session in the Qatari capital of Doha, the GCC finance ministers studied the economic aspects of the six-plus-two pact and especially the GCC members' \$10-billion economic assistance to Egypt and Syria. However, because of the refusal by some of the GCC members to extend any type of financial assistance to Egypt and Syria, this plan was left in abeyance three years after its approval at the GCC summit.

Political observers believe that the economic aspects of the six-plus-two pact forms the major infrastructure of the pact, and without these aspects, it will cease to exist. Of course, by signing unilateral security and military pacts with the Persian Gulf's Arab countries in the period after the oil war, the Western countries paved the way for the failure of the GCC's pact with Egypt and Syria.

Another topic on the agenda of the GCC foreign ministerial session was the process of the so-called peace talks for solving the Middle East crisis and the United States' request that these countries end their boycott of joint U.S.-Israeli companies. In their final communique in Riyadh, the GCC foreign ministers supported U.S. efforts to solve the Middle East crisis and placed Washington's request on the agenda of the meeting among businessmen of these six countries that is to convene in Washington in a few weeks.

However, despite this apparent support the GCC members are facing difficulties in supporting U.S. Middle East policies. The United States recently called on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to back America's policies for Israel more strenuously as Iraq's annexation of these two countries during the oil war was prevented. However, because of the domestic and regional consequences of

adopting such policies, these two countries are facing a decision-making crisis in their foreign policy. If these countries act as the United States wants, they will have to face the enraged sentiments of the people who consider the usurping Israeli regime to be illegitimate. And if they do not act as the United States wants, they should review the structure of their foreign policy, which is based on cooperation with Western countries.

Armenian Envoy Told Iran Opposes Renewed Clashes

LD0204135593 *Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 2 Apr 93*

[Text] Tehran, April 2, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry called the Armenian charge d'affaires here today over resumption of armed clashes with Azerbaijan and told him that Iran opposes any clashes in the region.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Research and Educational Affairs Abbas Maleki regretted the fresh clashes in the 'Kalbejar' region of upper Karabakh and told the Armenian envoy that such disputes should be settled through peaceful means including negotiations.

"Otherwise, continuation of clashes would only lead to further bloodshed and possible occupation of the others' lands," he added.

Referring to reports on the siege laid to civilian and innocent people in some parts of Karabakh, Maleki called for protection and evacuation of civilians from the operational theatres.

The Armenian charge d'affaires said promised [as received] to convey the Iranian viewpoints to the government in Yerevan, and said he would brief Iranian officials on any new developments concerning the issue.

"Due to Armenia's trust in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Yerevan would welcome any mediation for settlement of the dispute, because Iran is the nearest neighbour to both the countries and has already proved its neutrality," he added.

Maleki once again expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate in finding a just solution to the Karabakh clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

He said Iran is also ready for any cooperation for protection of the innocent people trapped in war theatres.

Foreign Ministry Calls On Armenia To Evacuate Karabakh

LD0504152893 *Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 5 Apr 93*

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement about the intensified clashes between the republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The statement reads in part: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that a solution of the Karabakh issue and a

fair and honorable peace can only be achieved through diplomatic talks and through peaceful means. As in the past, it stresses that respect for international laws and regulations, for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of governments, and for the inviolability of international borders is a fundamental and necessary condition for peaceful coexistence between countries.

The statement also says: While expressing deep concern about the recent intensification of the clashes and the massacre of innocent people, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the Armenian forces to withdraw from the areas of Azerbaijan it has occupied. Once again, it warns that the continuation of existing methods, the use of violence and force, and the spread of military clashes will bring uncertainty to both countries and to the whole of the Caucasus.

Turkey's Expansion of Influence in Central Asia Viewed

LD0504211193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Turkish President Turgut Ozal began his 10-day tour of the five Turkish-speaking republics of the former Soviet Union, namely, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan. [passage omitted] In a statement released by the Turkish Government in Ankara, it has been said that this is the first visit of Turkish President Turgut Ozal to the Turkish-speaking states of Central Asia.

The goal of this tour has been described as bolstering Turkey's ties with the Turkish-speaking countries of the region, or, in other words, from the Adriatic Sea to the Great Chinese Wall. Even though many political analysts believe that presentation and strengthening the idea on Pan Turkism and formation of a big alliance, comprising 400 million Turkish-speaking people of this region, are among the major objectives being pursued by Ozal on his tour of the five Central Asian Republics.

The fact of the matter is that the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the elimination of threats posed by communism toward the northern frontiers of Turkey, have provided Ankara with the opportunity so that its government officials, by relying on some racial, linguistic, and religious links with the former Turkish-speaking republics of the former Soviet Union, may stabilize their political, economic, and cultural influence, under the idea of Pan Turkism in this sensitive region of the world.

A look at the principles of this ideology, that is: unity for the Turks, adherence to the laic system, or, in other words, separation of religion from politics and also following the Western-style democracy too, is indicative of this subject. The reason is that at present, the Western states believe that spread of Islamic tendency in the

Middle East, or Central Asia and Caucasian regions, and in general, all over the world, is construed as a threat to their interest.

On this account, it can be said that Ankara, is trying, through exploiting its influence within the Central Asian republics, to emerge as a bridgehead linking Europe and the Islamic world. For instance, in the economic sphere Ankara is endeavoring to pave the way for expanding the economic influence of the Western states in the newly independent republics, by playing the role of an intermediary and by having access to added incomes. In the midst, Ozal, on the first leg of his tour, is already in Uzbekistan which is a Central Asian republic possessing huge resources and mineral reserves. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the Turkish statesmen, in their talks with the Uzbek officials, are seeking to focus on the expansion of joint cooperation and ventures between the two countries in economic and industrial fields.

Since the dismantlement of the former Soviet Union in December, 1991, and the independence of the Central Asian republics, Turkey has emerged as a major trade partner and also as a source of investment in the Central Asian region. In general, one can say that following the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, this is the second diplomatic effort by Ankara, at the highest level and it is expected that this tour will prepare grounds for the extension of Turkey's influence in that region.

Afghan Accord Called Model for Muslim Crises

NC0504105793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Successful Diplomacy"]

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani yesterday left Tehran for Kabul and was seen off by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. A day earlier, Golboddin Hekmatyar, Afghan prime minister, and Nawaz Sharif, Pakistani prime minister, left Tehran for Kabul and Islamabad respectively. Now that this article is being written apparently all the involved groups, together with the governments wielding influence over the Afghan issue, have welcomed the Islamabad Pact. Emphasis on the word "now" is important in that unfortunately the Afghan issues have lacked a good experience in these cases. Absence of a specific single leadership has always been posed as a major weakness all along the 14-year "jihad" (combat) of the Afghan people. Today too this weakness has brought about many conflicts and confrontations.

The Islamabad Pact is very significant from two points of view: First in regard to the future of Afghanistan. We have written numerous articles in this connection, and the matter is not hidden to anyone either. The second whose importance has not been adequately considered so far and which we hold to be of equal importance as the first is the fact that the problem besetting a Muslim

country was resolved with the very good cooperation of three Muslim countries of the region using a rational diplomacy; something that we rarely observe in the world of Islam.

Pitifully, it has become a habit for the Muslim countries to take resort to the international organizations whenever they face the slightest problem. These organizations are mainly under the influence of Western powers and the solutions offered are also mainly in tune with the national interests of the said powers. Even though the world of Islam prefers to have its problems resolved by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], this organization too is very sluggish and inactive.

Now that the OIC is inert and is submerged in bureaucracy, it is preferable for the Islamic countries to get together as small teams—this would avert the problem of bureaucracy—and to mediate in the crises and disputes gripping the Islamic countries and to prevent these crises from snowballing. Perhaps many analysts felt that, because of their specific political views, Iran and Saudi Arabia would not be able to jointly engage in a mediation bid. But over the past few days the world has witnessed that such is not the case. The common effort made by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Iran over the Afghan issue should be taken as good omen, and such moves can be very fructifying and efficacious until the time the OIC can recuperate.

Malaysian Delegation Arrives in Tehran 3 Apr

LD0304104093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Text] Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed bin Mahathir arrived in Tehran at noon today, at the head of a delegation, for a four-day official visit to our country. He was welcomed at the airport by First Vice President Hasan Habibi. Six cabinet ministers, including the foreign and industry ministers, and a number of Malaysian businessmen and traders are accompanying the prime minister of that country.

In an interview with our correspondent at Mehrabad Airport, the Malaysian prime minister stressed: Opportunities for economic cooperation between the two countries will be discussed during this visit. Malaysia is anxious to have good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields.

First Vice President Habibi said: The ways and means of expanding cooperation and relations between the two countries will be assessed during the high-ranking Malaysian delegation's stay in Tehran.

Prime Minister Meets Rafsanjani

LD0304180693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Text] Mr Mohamed bin Mahathir, the prime minister of Malaysia, met President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon. In the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Habibi, the first vice president; the ministers of foreign affairs and justice; the head and the deputy head of the Central Bank and of the joint commission; and a number of other officials from the two countries, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude for the visit of the high-ranking delegation from Malaysia to our country and described the Muslim country of Malaysia as one of Iran's good partners since the victory of the revolution. He added: The two countries can undertake more serious cooperation in various political, commercial, technical, and educational fields and especially in the fields of oil and gas in the Persian Gulf.

The president welcomed the involvement of Malaysian companies in the free trade area of Qeshm and said: The two countries can benefit from each other's valuable experiences in international trade and investments, thereby not only strengthening the link between themselves and Central Asian and Muslim countries but also forming an independent group of friendly countries for combatting monopolies and bullying of arrogant countries.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the two countries' mutual interest in issues concerning the world of Islam, especially Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina, saying: Political cooperation between the two countries as active members of the Organization of Islamic Conference can prove effective in strengthening cooperation within that organization and, ultimately, be beneficial for the world of Islam and for Asia. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always wanted to see unity between Islamic countries in the face of the hostile policies of the world of arrogance against Muslims, especially in Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina; and we hope to witness active unity between the Muslim countries of the world one day.

At the end of his remarks, the president expressed the hope that the current talks between the officials of the two countries would pave the way towards the practical and specific expansion of cooperation, which will be discussed in the two countries' forthcoming joint commission to be held in Tehran. Then the Malaysian prime minister said he was happy to have travelled to Iran and hoped that his three day trip to Iran would create new opportunities for expansion of cooperation between the two countries, in particular in the political and economic fields.

Mr. Mohamed bin Mahathir said one of the aims of his visit was to further strengthen trade between Iran and Malaysia, in particular in the trade of oil, gas, and palm oil.

Research indicates that the two countries enjoy suitable potential in all these fields, and we hope that we shall achieve very positive results, he added.

Pointing to the importance of Iran in the transit program of Malaysian goods to the Central Asian republics, the Malaysian prime minister said: With the success of the program we shall be using Iranian roads and railways in the future.

Stating that Malaysia was ready to invest in the Qeshm trade-free zone, Mr. Mohamed bin Mahathir said: The two countries could have greater cooperation in the tourist industry.

In another part of his talks, the Malaysian prime minister criticized international organizations and the global powers for not recognizing the rights of the oppressed nations. He said: The great powers and the United Nations claim to support human rights but are not prepared to take a practical step to help the peoples of Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Finally, the Malaysian prime minister said dispersion among the Islamic nations is to the loss of the Islamic world. He expressed the hope that, with the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a more tangible unity could be created among Islamic nations.

Prime Minister Speaks at Dinner

BK0404083093 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Mohamed bin Mahathir has appealed to the Muslim nations to set aside their differences and live in a true state of Islamic brotherhood. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by the Iranian president, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, in Tehran.

Dr. Mahathir said that by working together the Muslim nations could lead their ummah [community] towards a better future. They must cooperate so that their people could become knowledgeable, prosperous, and strong. It is only when the Muslim nations are economically strong and politically united that they will gain the respect of others and be able to influence world events. He regretted that as of now Muslims have been forced to flee their homeland, outraged and killed. Muslim countries should ask themselves whether they are totally without blame for what is now happening to them. The fact is that they are often divided by ethnic, sectarian, ideological, and personal differences. What is worse, their disunity has allowed them, negatively or positively, to be used by others.

On Iran's role in the international scene, Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia appreciated its efforts at balancing the pressure exerted by other forces in world affairs. But as long-established civilization, Iran could do much to address the new challenges that are being faced by the world as a result of the end of the cold war. In addition,

Tehran with the collaboration of its neighbors, could also do much to bring about regional stability in the Gulf area and in Central Asia.

On Malaysia-Iran relations, the prime minister said the two countries have always enjoyed warm and brotherly relations. He is particularly pleased that in the recent years economic interaction between the two countries has been increasing steadily.

Economic Cooperation Pacts Reached

LD0404113893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] At their meeting today, high-ranking governmental and private sector officials from Iran and Malaysia reached important agreements on joint investment and economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the meeting, which was attended by Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed bin Mahathir, the heads of the two countries' trade councils signed a memorandum of understanding. In the presence of the Malaysian prime minister, Abolhasan Khamushi, the director of the organization for the development and renovation of Iran's industries, signed on behalf of Iran, and Haji Mohamed Fadh Ahmad, the head of the Malaysian Trade Council, signed for Malaysia.

It was also announced at the meeting that the two countries have recently reached agreement on the implementation of a project for the laying of a gas pipeline in Malaysia by the organization for the development and renovation of Iran's industries and on the construction of a plant for refining palm oil in Chah Bahar [in southern Iran]. In addition, the two countries are due to sign several agreements and memorandums of understanding in connection with research and investment programs, including certain projects to be carried out on Qeshm Island [in the Persian Gulf].

Foreign Minister Meets Velayati

LD0404141293 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—The visiting Malaysian minister of foreign affairs, Ahmad Badawi Haji bin Abdullah, discussed Tehran-Kuala Lumpur economic and political cooperation with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Sunday.

Referring to bilateral trade, economic and technological cooperation, Badawi expressed hope that the coming session of the joint Iran-Malaysia economic commission would help materialize the agreements reached during the current visit.

Stressing the need for solidarity among Muslim states, Badawi who arrived here Saturday accompanying Prime Minister Mohamed bin Mahathir, expressed hope that

the upcoming foreign ministerial session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], to be held in Karachi, would solve problems of the Islamic world.

Velayati referred to the joint investments and mutual cooperation in Central Asia as the positive points of Iran-Malaysia cooperation.

Prime Minister Confers With Khamene'i

*LD0404130093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
4 Apr 93*

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, received Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed bin Mahathir and the delegation accompanying him this morning.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed the need for understanding, cooperation, and close ties among Islamic countries. First Vice President Hasan Habibi and Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati were also present at the meeting, at which the esteemed leader underlined the importance of the expansion of ties and relations between Islamic countries. He said: Islamic regions possess immense reserves of fuel and other important natural and geographical resources. In fact, the industrial and advanced nations of the world need Muslims. Therefore, the Islamic world, by relying on strengthening factors—such as coexistence, unity, friendly ties, and mutual advice—can provide the Muslims with what is rightly theirs.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the irrational and unlimited support of America for the Zionist regime as a step designed to degrade Islamic countries. He stated: Israel, as a phoney and rootless entity with no history—and with the unwavering support of America and its allies—is pressuring and torturing the real owners of Palestine. The Palestinians are not even allowed to speak of their rights. Under such conditions, the Americans and their likeminded allies are protesting against the Islamic Republic of Iran because of its open opposition to the negotiations of collusion between the Zionist regime and the Arabs. We believe that the basis of these negotiations, from which the righteous ones—the people of Palestine—have been excluded, is oppression. We view the negotiations negatively.

The leader of the Islamic revolution pointed out that Islam is the religion of coexistence, communication, and friendship, saying: Muslims can live in peace and tranquility with the followers of other faiths throughout the world. However, the Westerners, who claim to support democracy and freedom, are extremely prejudiced toward other cultures and ways of life. They insist on the imposition of their culture and way of life all over the world. History has shown that they have even had difficulty in coexisting among themselves: whenever Europe has felt safe from the threat of an outside power,

war and bloodshed have started within Europe itself. European tribes have constantly been opposing each other.

The honorable leader referred to Islam as a factor of solidarity, understanding, cooperation, and coexistence among Muslim peoples with different histories, cultures, and traditions. He said: The enemies of Islam are spending a great deal of money to create differences among Islamic countries. They regard understanding among Islamic states as inconsistent with their interests. Therefore, leaders of Islamic nations must be aware and confront the enemies' provocations. They must prevent the emergence of difficulties resulting from factional differences among Muslims.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran as active and powerful. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the two Islamic countries of Iran and Malaysia will be able to cooperate closely in the various economic, commercial, and political fields.

According to the same report, at the meeting the Malaysian prime minister, for his part, spoke of the two countries' interest in expanding economic and commercial ties. He stated: In order to reduce our dependence on the advanced countries of the West and North, we need to have a strong economy and government. With this aim in mind, we are ready rapidly to expand our relations with Islamic Iran. In conclusion, he underlined his government's will to expand the economy of Malaysia simultaneous with the implementation of the lofty teachings of Islam in that country.

Nateq-Nuri Calls For Closer Ties

*LD0404130793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
4 Apr 93*

[Text] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri has met Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed bin Mahathir, who is visiting our country at the head of a delegation. Nateq-Nuri called for the expansion of the two country's relations and an exchange of their experiences in various fields.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also called for closer ties between Islamic countries, including Malaysia and Iran, in order to protect Islamic nations' resources and confront the expansionist and discord-creating plans of the arrogant powers.

The Majles speaker stressed the need to support Islamic nations, particularly the tyrannized nations of Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina, at the current sensitive juncture. He said that the arrogant powers' false propaganda reports and their current political and economic pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran are due to this justice-seeking stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He addressed the Malaysian prime minister, saying: As you have also stressed, we seek the establishment of peace,

tranquillity, and security and the protection of territorial integrity and the independence of our country on the basis of the principles of our belief. We are also against aggression or the occupation of any country.

The Majles speaker continued: With a few exceptions, we want to establish and expand our relations with all countries. In that regard we give priority to Islamic countries, including Malaysia.

Then Mr. Mohamed bin Mahathir explained the special characteristics of Malaysia in terms of race, nationality, and different religions. He expressed the willingness of his country to expand cooperation with Iran and the deepening of bilateral ties. He said: We want to prove to the world that Islamic countries can manage their own affairs and maintain friendly relations in a peaceful and stable atmosphere.

Industry Minister Talks With Ne'matzadeh

LD0404142893 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—The Malaysian minister of primary industries, Keng Yaik Lim, and the Iranian minister of industries, Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, explored the avenues for promotion of mutual eco-industrial as well as technical cooperation here Sunday.

The two ministers discussed about the transfer of technology and implementation of joint ventures. Reviewing ways for the export of Malaysian palm oil to the newly independent Central Asian republics via Iran, both sides welcomed the conduct of joint scientific and industrial surveys.

During its stay here, the Malaysian industrial team will visit several Iranian industrial plants, particularly those active in palm oil area.

The Malaysian minister arrived in Iran Saturday accompanying his country's premier, Mohamed bin Mahathir.

Prime Minister Calls For Increased Trade

BK0404141893 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Malaysia has expressed its desire to participate in Iran's development program, particularly to develop free trade zones, telecommunications, housing, highways, ports, resorts, and mining. The country is also interested in investing in manufacturing and financial consultancy, as well as other services.

Speaking at a luncheon with Iranian businessmen in Tehran today, Prime Minister Mohamed bin Mahathir suggested that there should be more visits both at the governmental and private sector levels to increase awareness of each other's economic potential and opportunities. He said there is bilateral trade potential that can be

further exploited. He pointed out that Malaysian industrialists and entrepreneurs who have gained both experience and expertise in these fields over the years are willing to share their knowledge with Iran.

He noted with interest Iran's move to liberalize its economy and encourage private sector growth. He said Malaysia is willing to cooperate and share experience with Iran in these aspects. He spoke of the need for the two countries to enhance their trade and economic relationship even though the two countries have long-established cultural and economic ties.

Two More Agreements Signed

BK0504105693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0628 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 5 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia and Iran have agreed to sign two more cooperation agreements in their efforts to boost trade between the two countries, Malaysian Foreign Minister Ahmad Badawi Haji bin Abdullah said here Monday.

There agreements were an investment guarantee pact and avoidance of double taxation agreement.

Abdullah told Malaysian reporters that the decision to initial the additional agreements to complement the existing bilateral payments arrangements between the two countries was reached during a follow-up meeting he had with his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Velayati here.

The meeting was a follow-up of Sunday's discussions between Prime Minister Dr. Mohamed bin Mahathir and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Abdullah said the Iranian minister requested Malaysia to make available copies of similar agreements Malaysia had signed with other countries for them to study.

Abdullah said Velayati and he also agreed to convene a meeting here of the Malaysia-Iran Joint Commission within four months to iron out details of various decisions reached during Dr. Mahathir's current visit.

Both agreed that the private sectors of both countries could do a lot to enhance economic and trade relations between the two countries.

At present, Malaysia's trade with Iran totalled U.S.\$70 million a year, rather small compared to her trade with other West Asian countries.

During their meeting Sunday, Dr. Mahathir and Rafsanjani agreed to work out means to increase trade volume.

Among other things Iran agreed to allocate 15 percent of its annual 500,000-tonne edible oil requirement to palm oil, paving the way for the entry of Malaysian palm oil into the Iranian market.

In addition, Iran also offered Malaysia to set up an oil palm refinery here, participate in the development of its oil and gas industry, and take part in their joint venture projects.

Malaysia, in return, invited Iranian bankers to take part in offshore banking in Labuan as an alternative to the granting of a fresh banking licence requested by Iran which Malaysia could not fulfill due to its policy constraints.

Delegation Leaves

LD0604105693 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT*
6 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister of Malaysia, Mohamed bin Mahathir, and the high-ranking delegation accompanying him, left Tehran at noon today. He was seen off officially by First Vice President Habibi.

The Malaysian prime minister, in an interview at Mehrabad Airport with our reports, expressed satisfaction with his trip to our country. He said: In the course of my visit to Iran, I had useful talks with high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, notably the esteemed leader, and the two countries have reached agreements on joint economic investments in different fields. He said: Eight memorandums of understanding were signed in Tehran and predictions are that the level of economic relations between the two countries will amount to over \$200 million.

First Vice President Habibi then spoke, and assessed as positive the agreements reached between Malaysia and Iran. He referred to the existing good and varied grounds for expanding the tourist industry in both countries and said: In negotiations with the Malaysian delegation, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that an international tourist agency be set up in Islamic countries. This was welcomed by the prime minister of Malaysia.

Before leaving Tehran, the prime minister of Malaysia took part in a news conference. He described the contents of the memorandums of understanding signed between the two countries, and said: On the basis of agreements reached in Tehran, Malaysia will purchase minerals, including marble and decorative stone, fruit, foodstuffs, steel, gold and copper. He added: In addition, Malaysia has agreed to participate in projects to attract and exchange tourists and to help develop hotels and a liquid gas plant in Iran.

Commenting on his country's political outlook, the prime minister of Malaysia said: We believe that all Islamic countries, by disregarding their own differences, should unite vis-a-vis common enemies and be united in their voice in the face of issues and difficulties facing their fellow Muslims in the world. He explained: The crimes of the Serbs in committing genocide against

Bosnian Muslims is among the problems which must be confronted by the world of Islam with one voice and in a unified manner.

Commentary Favors Economic Ties With Malaysia

NC0504060293 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT*
5 Apr 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] The expansion of commercial and industrial cooperation is among the most important topics being discussed during the meetings held by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mohamed bin Mahathir and his accompanying delegation during their stay in our country. The similarities in the political stances of Iran and Malaysia and in the two countries' economic objectives have created favorable grounds for the expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Within the framework of its 20-year program known as the New Economic Policy, Malaysia is gradually moving toward industrialization. Its agricultural sector continues to be significant as well. Palm oil, caoutchouc, electrical appliances, and wood are among Malaysia's major products. Malaysia's income from agricultural exports in 1991 was more than \$5.5 billion, which shows the attention focused on the agricultural sector.

The presence of 56 Malaysian industrialists and businessmen in the Malaysian prime minister's delegation as well as the views exchanged with our country's economic officials can lead to the expansion of commercial relations, investment, tourism, and the implementation of joint industrial projects. Although bilateral trade currently amounts to only \$70 million and is limited to a few items, favorable grounds for expanding this cooperation have been created.

Iran and Malaysia can be each other's economic and commercial bases in the sensitive Asia area. Malaysia can participate in the implementation of our country's development projects and cooperate in investments in ports, free zones, and industrial projects. Iran, on the other hand, can facilitate the transit of Malaysian goods to Central Asia. The two countries can use each other's valuable experience in international trade and investment and consolidate the link connecting them and Central Asian countries and create an independent group comprising friendly and Muslim countries to confront monopolization.

The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes the Malaysian prime minister's visit to our country will have a profound impact on the expansion of bilateral economic and commercial relations.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0204181793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Majlis Deputy Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani; on 2 April in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [crowd chants slogans, including "Death to Saddam"] Some people might still be asking: What is the Islamic Republic? What are its characteristics? One must say: The Islamic Republic's basis and characters are these: Islam is now on the agenda of the world; the Koran is on the agenda of the world. When was Islam on the agenda like this? [passage omitted] Was this a small task? Has not the Islamic Republic worked hard to raise the banner of Islam in the world? [passage omitted]

Who is opposing war in the world today? Who is opposing arrogance today? It is Islam, it is the Islamic Republican system, it is this nation, it is this people, it was that founder of the Islamic Republic [Khomeyni], it is that leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i]. Where in the world does the cry go out against all the oppression committed against the Bosnian Muslims? Who is shouting so much? Where are they shouting? Even if there is a cry somewhere, it is because it started in Iran. [passage omitted]

Look at what is happening in Lebanon and Palestine. Look at usurper Israel, this malignant tumor that has been placed by arrogance among Islamic and Arab countries. Who is shouting its opposition? And who is not scared one bit about its consequences? It is Islam, fundamental Islam; this is true Islam.

When the holy prophet [crowd chants: "May the peace and benedictions of God be upon Muhammad and his companions] ...[sentence unfinished as heard]. When a wretched and unfortunate character mocked [the prophet] and wrote a book called "The Satanic Verses," the imam [Khomeyni] issued a fatwa and condemned him to death. This exploded like a bomb in the world; the world heard this. [crowd chants support]

This is the message of the revolution. This is Islam. It is not just Islam in name. It is the essence of Islam. It is because it is true Islam that Muslims throughout the world have been inspired by it; because it is true! Otherwise, if it was just a matter of form and a superficial thing—there was that Marxist regime, which used to claim that it supported the poor, that it supported the underdog. Falsely! It did not bring any wealth to any poor people, and it did not even succeed for itself. It fell to pieces. God be praised. Because it was lying.

Whereas, when the Islamic regime says: Islam, all the Islamic world is set in motion by it. And they blame us. They say, Iran is interfering. It is not that Iran is interfering; it is a question of being inspired by Islam. It

is the the idea of Islam, the Koran, which is being presented truly to the world. Of course, our officials have fully explained this to our dear people and our dear nation. Our nation knows what happened in Iran; they know what has happened to the younger generation in terms of Islam; what has happened to universities, schools, and streets. And they know how it used to be. They know how it was and how it has become. All that corruption, all those crimes, all that decadence, and all those problems from which the country was suffering.

Now, we have many young people who are so spiritually inclined, so correctly dressed, so devoted to God, so selfless, with such devout parents. This revolution has created great people. It has transformed this country. It broke everything and formed them anew. It turned people's souls toward God. That was the best thing that it could do.

From the economic and financial point of view, too, of course, a great deal has been achieved. The officials must explain that. Such a great deal! So many services in villages, towns, different things! I will not go into that. All I want to ... [sentence unfinished as heard] Some people may say, this is an Islamic regime, and there is this or that place—we do not defend that. There may be a badly dressed woman here or there. We do not consider that to be Islamic. We do know, however, that this regime, as I said before, this regime, God willing, is in the period of transition from the evil and blasphemous regime of the shah to the just regime of the lord of the age [the hidden imam, the 12th Shiite imam, who is to return] [crowd chants: "God is the Greatest," three times; "Khamene'i is the leader"; "Down with those opposing the rule of the Supreme Jurisconsult"; "Down with America"; "Down with Britain"; "Down with Monafeqin and Saddam"; "Down with Israel"]

We await that day [of the hidden imam] and pray for that day to come, and all of us should pray for that. That is the meaning of expectation. That is the meaning of waiting for the lord of the age. It means that we should construct ourselves and correct ourselves and be prepared for that day. Of course, there are some problems. If the Voice and Vision [Iranian Radio and Television] broadcasts some kind of music that excites people and contradicts Islamic criteria, that does not mean that it should become a topic [of criticism] or for some to say that someone is not wearing Islamic dress properly or somewhere there is that kind of music and song and so on. You should look at the principles of the system and its direction. You should see where it is going. Nothing is perfect at the beginning. [passage omitted]

Of course, we do not defend this system as it exists; we do not say that this is the real Islam. But problems should be solved and corrections should be made. [passage omitted]

Of course, there are also economic problems there and our honorable nation knows the causes of those economic problems, and the government is making its best

to solve those problems. We should pray for the success of the government and help it and cooperate with it so that it can achieve the goals of its second five-year plan, God willing. [passage omitted]

Nateq-Nuri Addresses First Majles Session in New Year

LD0404135393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The first open session of the Majles in the year 1372 [beginning 21 March] was held this morning. According to our correspondent, the bill for the amendment of the Islamic presidential election law, which has a single urgency, was discussed. The generalities of the bill were approved and the discussion of its details was left for the next open session.

At the session, a report of the Commission on Articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution was presented to the Majles, in connection with addressing the complaints of the residents of Qeshm Island about the performance of the officials of the Free Trade Area of Qeshm.

According to our correspondent, in today's open session, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri expressed New Year greetings and spoke about the country's programs for economic, social, and cultural development. He said: We must achieve the five-year plan's goals through careful and expert studies and by reliance on the country's resources and dedicated work force. Nateq-Nuri also stressed the need for vigilance in the face of the ploys of arrogant powers against the Islamic Revolution. He described the drawing up of the second five-year plan as one of the instruments through which the conspiracies of arrogant powers could be confronted. He called for increased activity in the ideological and cultural fields.

Pakistan

Reportage on March on Kashmir Line of Control

March Not To Be Allowed

BK0304145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government [AJK] has decided not to allow the people toward the [Kashmir] Line of Control from Muzaffarabad to Chakothi or any other route tomorrow. The decision was taken in the AJK cabinet meeting last night which was presided over by the AJK prime minister, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan. The meeting reviewed in detail the situation created by the announcement of some political parties to cross the Line of Control. The AJK cabinet decided that at this critical juncture of the Kashmir freedom movement, this act will have negative effect and nobody should be allowed to participate in the march toward the Line of Control. The

AJK cabinet directed all district magistrates to take appropriate measures to stop the people.

Kashmiri Youths Claim Border Crossed

BK0404002293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1752 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, April 3 (AFP)—Three Kashmiri youths crossed briefly into the Indian side of Kashmir on Saturday and hoisted flags, as Pakistan took steps to foil a march planned for Sunday across the Line of Control, sources here said.

The youths, members of the Azad Kashmir People's Party [AKPP], penetrated two to three kilometers (1.25 to 1.85 miles) into Indian-controlled Kashmir from the border town of Chakothi. AKPP spokesman Hameed Mufti told reporters.

The AKPP, led by former state premier Mumtaz Rathore, plans to storm the border on Sunday despite a ban on vehicle traffic on the 60 kilometer (37 mile) road between Muzaffarabad and Chakothi.

Islamabad meanwhile rushed reinforcements—40 platoons of paramilitary troops—at the request of the state government to prevent any incidents on the Line of Control.

Minister of Kashmir Affairs Mehtab Ahmad Abbasi said Pakistan was in danger of being declared a terrorist state by Washington due to Indian claims that it is backing Kashmiri successionists.

"We can not afford any move on the line of control which could provide India with an opportunity to ... paint Pakistan as promoter of disturbance in India," he said.

Mufti said the youths had played three flags, including the official Azad (Free) Kashmir flag, on the India side of the line of control, then returned to Muzaffarabad safely.

The flags could be seen from Chakothi, Mufti said, adding that the youths met no response from Indian border troops who were some distance away.

No independent confirmation was available for the claim, which came as the AKPP launched a campaign to mobilise participants for Sunday's Safar-i-Shahadat, or Journey to Martyrdom.

Several hundred activists held a torch-bearing procession, while jeeps fitted with public address systems continued to invite people to join the march.

The AKPP, allied with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, had also set up camps in the city where enthusiasts played tape-recorded national and martial songs.

The proposed march coincides with the anniversary of the 1979 execution of the PPP founder's, late premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was Benazir Bhutto's father.

The PPP has plastered walls with posters of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, inscribed with his famous slogan: "We will fight for Kashmir even if it takes 1,000 years."

Rathore, in a statement Saturday, vowed to cross the line of control despite government restrictions. He also said police wanted to arrest him, but so far he had managed to escape.

Sunday's attempt to cross the line of control will be the fourth since February last year, when more than a dozen people died in clashes with security forces.

Abbasi said he regretted the "indifferent attitude" of the United Nations on the issue, alleging that it had been lukewarm on its 1948 resolution for a plebiscite in Kashmir.

"The world body must intervene to solve the issue of Kashmir," he said.

Kashmiris Gather To Defy Ban

BK0404093493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, April 4 (AFP)—Defying a government ban on a Kashmiri protest march, hundreds of opposition party activists on Sunday set out to storm the Indian border, sources here said.

"We shall not be deterred by the restrictive measures," Azad Kashmir People's Party (AKPP) leader Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, said in a tape-recorded message sent to the party office here from his hideout. A sizeable crowd gathered overnight to listen to Rathore's taped statement. The party said state prime minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum failed to convince Rathore in phone conversation late Saturday to abandon the plan.

Rathore, himself a former state premier, claimed that an unspecified number of people in his party had been arrested, but vowed he would lead the march as scheduled and urged his supporters to participate peacefully.

The march is the fourth such attempt by Kashmiri groups since early last year to demonstrate support for their compatriots under Indian rule.

The AKPP is the Kashmiri chapter of the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former premier Benazir Bhutto. The protest date coincided with the 14th anniversary of the execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, PPP founder and father of Benazir. Sources said authorities were erecting barricades along the 60 kilometer (37 mile) road from this state capital to Chakothi, the border town selected by the marchers for the mass crossing.

Police also prevented gatherings on the highway, an AKPP spokesman said. He claimed that police had arrested some 500 party supporters in the past two days, but no official confirmation was available. AKPP

workers and supporters trickled in overnight from different districts to start the trek, billed as a "journey to martyrdom."

Armed police contingents spread out and the Pakistan government rushed truckloads of para-military troops as reinforcements to assist the state administration in maintaining order.

The authorities banned the protest to prevent an escalation of tension along the line dividing the Pakistani and Indian armies in Kashmir. The two neighbours have fought three wars since their independence, two of them exclusively for control of Kashmir.

While the security forces braced to stop the cross-border march, Pakistan urged the international community to help resolve the decades old Kashmir issue.

AKPP workers recited verses from the Koran at a number of camps until early morning Sunday to invoke God's blessings for thousands of people who have died in the Indian occupied Kashmir since a Muslim revolt against New Delhi's rule engulfed the state three years ago. The call for the storming of the border came as Pakistan finds itself under pressure from the U.S. for allegedly supporting the Kashmiri militants.

"We can not afford to allow any move that may benefit India for anti-Pakistan propaganda," Pakistani minister for Kashmir affairs Sardar Aftab Ahmed Abbasi said, admitting that Islamabad was confronted with threats of being branded a terrorist state. But, the minister emphasised that Islamabad could not go on stopping the Kashmiris forever if the United Nations and the international community did not restrain the Indians and help solve the Kashmiri dispute.

"If hundreds of thousands of people decide to cross the line of control from both sides, it will create an uncontrollable situation," Khan said, adding that "to avoid bloodshed, an early solution of Kashmir must be found."

Pakistan, which vows moral and political support to the Kashmiris' self-determination struggle, wants the issue settled through a plebiscite in the disputed Himalayan region.

Marchers Set Out

BK0404143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In Azad Kashmir, thousands of people started their march from Muzaffarabad today in a bid to cross the Line of Control at Chakothi. The government of Azad Kashmir has already taken measures to prevent the marchers from crossing the control line. PTV representative reports from Muzaffarabad that the situation is peaceful and so far there has been no problem of law and order. The purpose of the march is to express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir who are struggling for their right of self-determination.

'Thousands' March

BK0404161693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In Azad Kashmir, thousands of people began to march from Muzaffarabad today in a bid to cross the Line of Control at Chakothi. They have arrived in (Garhi Dupatta) where they will stay overnight before leaving for Chakothi. The purpose of the march is to express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir, who are struggling for their right to self-determination which has been recognized at the international level. They also want to draw the attention of the world community to the atrocities and human rights violations committed by Indian troops on the Kashmiri people.

Azad Kashmir President Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan told the Radio Pakistan representative in Islamabad this afternoon that efforts are continuing to persuade the marchers to disperse peacefully. However, the Kashmiri people are so enraged that it will be difficult for the government to prevent the marchers from reaching their goal over and over again. Referring to the terrible state terrorism in occupied Kashmir, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan urged the civilized world and the United Nations to take notice of the situation and exert pressure on India to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan told the Radio Pakistan Muzaffarabad representative this evening that the Line of Control is sacred neither to him nor to his party. He, however, said the step to halt the marchers has been taken in the larger interests of the freedom movement in occupied Kashmir. He expressed apprehensions that as a retaliatory measure against this march, India would intensify its oppressive activities to crush the struggle of the Kashmiri people. The Azad Kashmir prime minister appealed to all democratic forces to make concerted efforts to awaken the world public so that the goal of freedom may be realized. Referring to the law and order situation, he said it is fully under control.

Before the march commenced, Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, president of the Azad Jammu Kashmir People's Party, addressed the marchers in Muzaffarabad. He demanded the implementation of the UN Resolutions on Kashmir, imposition of economic sanctions against India, and declaration of India as a terrorist state for adopting repressive policies against Kashmiris and other sections of Indian society.

March Resumed 5 Apr

BK0504112693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] In Azad Kashmir, thousands of marchers have again started their march toward the Line of Control after an overnight stay at Garhi Dopatta. The march is aimed at drawing the attention of the United Nations and the international community toward the inhuman

reign of terror let loose by Indian troops in Occupied Kashmir and to express solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir.

Our Muzaffarabad representative says that the AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Government has already decided not to allow the marchers to defy the Line of Control in view of the tense situation. Our representative adds that the law and order situation is completely under control.

Marchers Stopped at Sehri

BK0504143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] In Azad Kashmir, thousands of marchers have been stopped at Sehri near Hatianbala this afternoon, 25 km from the Line of Control. The people had resumed their march toward Chakothi to cross the Line of Control after an overnight halt at Garhi Dopatta.

PTV correspondent Ayub Nihal says the situation is peaceful and negotiations between district administration and the marchers are under way to end the march.

The purpose of the march is to express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir and draw the world's attention toward human rights abuses of Indian troops in occupied Kashmir.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1325 GMT on 5 April adds the following: "The marchers are demanding an assurance from Pakistani leaders that they will raise the question of the Kashmiris' right to self determination at the UN Security Council.

"Less than a thousand activists reached Sehri, covering the 35 kilometers (21 miles) from the state capital Muzaffarabad in two days, witnesses said.

"Police detained four students, said a spokesman for the Azad Kashmir Peoples Party (AKPP) which organized the 'journey to martyrdom' march."

Situation Under Control

BK0504160293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Latest reports say negotiations are under way between the civilian and military authorities and the marchers at Sehri, about 35 km from Muzaffarabad. Chaudhary Mohammad Yusuf, the senior minister of Azad Kashmir, told Radio Pakistan's Muzaffarabad correspondent that the negotiations are being held in a peaceful atmosphere and efforts are being made to persuade the marchers to call off their march program in view of the serious situation prevailing in Occupied Kashmir.

He said stopping the marchers from crossing the Line of Control was a difficult decision for the government, but it was necessary to save priceless lives. He said the Line of Control has no importance for the government and

the people of Azad Kashmir, because it has led to the division of this territory into two parts. The people cannot be prevented from crossing the Line of Control over and over again. Therefore, the United Nations and the international community should immediately take steps to help resolve the Kashmir problem. He expressed satisfaction with the law and order situation and said the situation is under full control of the relevant officials.

Earlier, thousands of people resumed their march toward the Line of Control after an overnight halt at Garhi Dopatta. The purpose of the march is to draw the attention of the United Nations and the international community to the Indian troops' terrorism in occupied Kashmir and to express solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir.

March Continues Until Demands Met

BK0604013093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The Azad Kashmir authorities stopped the people from marching toward the Line of Control at Sehri yesterday, about 25 km from Chakothi. The marchers have now staged a sit-in demonstration and have reaffirmed that they will continue their march until their demands are met. They are demanding that the road to Srinagar be opened, that economic sanctions be imposed against India, that Kashmiris be given observer's status at the United Nations, that India be declared a terrorist state, and implementation of the relevant UN resolutions on Kashmir.

It is now reported that following the failure of negotiations between the marchers and authorities, about 100 of the marchers led by Mumtaz Hussain Rathore have courted arrest.

Government Condemns Killing of Kashmiris

BK0504092893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has strongly condemned the cold-blooded murder of Dr. Abdul Ahad Guru and the subsequent killing of innocent Kashmiris, including the brother-in-law of Dr. Guru, in savage shooting at the peaceful procession of mourners in occupied Kashmir. A statement issued by the Foreign Office in Islamabad says the murder of Dr. Guru is proof of the fact that the Indian forces are bent upon killing all those who raise their voices for the liberation of occupied Kashmir from the Indian yoke and against the violation of human rights by Indian troops in the territory.

Pakistani, Indian Armies Clash; 3 Dead

BK0204080593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 2 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Kotli (KPI)—A report from Nakial sector says that tension has been escalated between Indo-Pak armies on the border.

Indian Army is engaged in erecting fortifications at Sardotoot and it continued unprovoked shelling on Pak Army on Thursday. Pak Army returned the fire, killing three Indian armymen. Life in Datoot has been crippled due to Indian Army's unprovoked and continued shelling. It has become difficult for the people to come out of their houses. Two women were injured on Wednesday by Indian Army's firing who have been shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, Kotli.

People of Datoot, Cant. Hal, Patochi and adjoining areas have started migration due to the fear of Indian Army's firing. Tension has gripped the whole areas.

Amir Jama'al-l-Islami Nakial Sardar Gulzal and a social worker Sikanar Kamran have also visited the area. People have demanded of the government to provide alternative accommodation. They told to KPI that consistent Indian Army firing has been continuing since March 26. They have urged the government to grant financial assistance to the two injured women.

Reports received from Occupied Kashmir say that Mojahedin have increased their attacks on Indian Army, killing several armymen in Baramula, Srinagar and Badgam. Three army vehicles were destroyed in Shopian and Islamabad.

According to details Mojahedin destroyed an army vehicle through a land-mine explosion in Islamabad. Mojahedin have planted land mines on Panzo Road, three kilometres from Islamabad. An army vehicle was destroyed by a forceful explosion when it passed the same road. As a result two soldiers were killed.

Indian Army has admitted the destruction of a vehicle and said one soldier was injured in this incident.

More than a dozen villages near Shopian are under Army's siege. The troops subjected to torture nine youths during the crackdown. The names of the victims are Muhammad Yousuf Mir, Muhammad Ayub Mir, Baghir Ahmad Dar, Gul Muhammad, Bashir Ahmad, Muhammad Shaban Mir, Abdur Rashid, Muhammad Yoursuf Dar and Fiaz Ahmad.

Hizbul Mujahedin destroyed an army vehicle through a land-mine explosion on a road between Shopian and Okara. The Hizb claimed that several soldiers were killed in the explosion.

Indian troops threw away the bodies of two youths in Bandipura following their deaths in Army custody. The Army arrested two brothers Muhammad Ishfaq and Rashir from Pazalpura on March 20 during a crackdown on freedom-fighters. They were brought to Sonaiwani Camp where they were subjected to severe torture. The mother of the youngmen went to meet his sons in the detention centre and sought permission to see her sons. She was told by an army officer that her sons have been set free.

The mother of the detainees, when crossed the Gazriz Road on her way back home, saw two dead bodies

soaked in blood thrown there by army officials. She fell into swoon upon seeing the bodies of her sons. There were several signs of torture on the bodies. An FIR [Forced Information Report] has been registered in local police station.

People of Bandipura have protested against this incident. There is complete strike in areas.

Arrested Libyans May Be Deported

*BK0404140193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
4 Apr 93 p 12*

[Text] Peshawar—The seven Libyans apprehended for their alleged involvement in criminal activities may be deported to their country if they were found wanted there.

Informed sources said the photographs of the seven accused arrested last week had been supplied to the Libyan Embassy in Islamabad to check about their background and also whether they were needed by Libya in any criminal activities.

The sources said the seven accused might be handed over to the Libyan Embassy, though a decision in this regard has not yet been taken. Pakistan does not have extradition treaty with Tripoli, but the deportation of the accused to Libya would be the first instance if any Arab to their country, who took part during the 14 year long Afghan war, be implemented.

Foreign Secretary Shahryar M. Khan, in a letter to Interior Secretary Jamshed Burki some times back, had proposed the appointment of special squads to track down those staying illegally in Pakistan and subsequently be ordered to leave Pakistan within a week.

A police officer who took part in the initial interrogation of the accused said four out of the seven accused did not have any passports and were illegally staying in the country. The Joint Interrogation Team (JIT) and the Special Branch, according to one source, have failed to extract anything new out of the three accused at an interrogation call here.

"In my whole 20 years of police career, I've never come across such hard nuts" said a police official. "I failed to break their will, they were as hard as steel" he candidly conceded. "They appeared ready to bear all sorts of torture, but are not prepared to go back to Libya" he said.

He said the accused had connections with the gang dealing in stolen cars in Bannu and Miramshah and had made several trips to that area to dispose of the vehicles snatched in Peshawar.

The police official said the accused were trained fighters and knew the operation of all sorts of weapons from Kalashnikovs to the anti-aircraft missile. "One of them was carrying a hand grenade in his coat pocket, while he

had placed another on the car's dash board" remarked the bewildered police official.

All the accused belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood Movement have no kind words for the Muslim rulers. During their interrogation, they used all sorts of words to describe the heads of governments of various Muslim countries, ranging from "infidels" to the "American agents" said a police official.

The police is also said to be investigating whether the accused were also involved in any terrorist activities. The JIT is said to be concentrating on one accused Zaki Hamid Al-Farah, who is said to be the ring leader.

An informed source said the possibility of the involvement of some Arabs in an attempt to blow up the bridge on the Jamrud-Toricham road just hours before Mr Hekmatyar's scheduled departure for Jalalabad in the second week of March, could not be ruled out.

He said some of the Arabs who fought in the Afghan Jihad and were presently residing in Pakistan and Afghanistan were not happy with the ongoing tussle between the mujahedin leaders who they believed had failed to set up a "true" Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a local court Saturday extended the physical remand of the three accused, Khalid, Kamal and Zaki Hamid Al-Farah. They were produced before the court following the expiry of their six days remand.

Ishaq Khan Nominated Presidential Candidate

*BK0404162893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in
English 1600 GMT 4 Apr 93*

[Text] The federal cabinet at a special meeting in Islamabad today has unanimously decided to nominate President Ghulam Ishaq Khan as candidate of the Pakistan Muslim League for the next presidential election. The parliamentary party of the Pakistan Muslim League had empowered the prime minister to nominate the official presidential candidate for next term.

Outcome of Terrorist State Declaration Cited

*BK0504113593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
5 Apr 93 pp 1, 10*

[Excerpts] Islamabad—The Prime Minister's special envoy Ch [Chaudhry] Nisar Ali Khan, who is scheduled to leave for Washington today (Monday), is expected to warn top U.S. officials about the disastrous international and regional repercussions of any ill-advised move to declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

Nisar Ali Khan, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, will not only meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, but also other important officials in the U.S. State Department. His visit has acquired a special significance in the wake of the recent intensification of Indian propaganda about alleging Pakistan's

involvement in the recent Bombay blasts. Mr Nisar's visit also follows the U.S. envoy in Islamabad John C Monjo's veiled warning to Pakistan that it could be declared a terrorist state any time.

According to highly-placed sources, the visit could be a make or break development in the Pak-U.S. ties. Foreign policy strategists in the federal capital feel that there is a serious possibility of the U.S. taking punitive action against Pakistan in view of growing Indian pressure and lobbying. The significance of Mr Nisar's crucial visit should be considered in this context.

Sources believe that a big conspiracy is being hatched under the influence of strong Indian lobby, now busy in the United States, to get a punitive action to declare Pakistan a terrorist-sponsoring state. They listed many incidents in the recent past through which either the pro-India U.S. officials or the Indian Government have been trying their best to provide sufficient evidence to the State Department so that it should declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

Apparently, these include Kansi episode, the Bombay blasts, the Trade Centre blast and the recent hijacking of an Indian airliner. Apart from this both the U.S. and India are now openly accusing Pakistan of providing material assistance to Kashmiri freedom fighters and Sikh extremists struggling to get their own homeland. Pakistan has reportedly prepare a full case to defend itself against the charges. [passage omitted]

They say it would be ill-advised for the Clinton administration to declare Pakistan a terrorist state unilaterally on the basis of Indian pressure and lobbying. Pakistan is also arguing with the officials of the State Department that the PM [prime minister] had lost the support of eight MNAs [members of National Assembly] in the NA [National Assembly] when all support to one religio-political party Jamaat-e-Islami was blocked by different agencies. The Jamaat after viewing a change in the policy of the government left the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] government last year.

The prime minister had also reportedly ordered to bar Jamaat from providing any assistance to Kashmiri freedom fighters. Simultaneously, the Foreign Office is learnt to have also assured the State Department at the behest of the prime minister that the sitting government will not tolerate any act of providing material support to anyone outside Pakistan.

"Notwithstanding whatever be the truth, it appears that U.S. and India coincide on declaring Pakistan a terrorist-sponsoring state. The sole purpose of which would be to force it eventually to give up its nuclear capability unilaterally," commented a source widely discussing the issue. Experts feel that disastrous repercussions will follow once the U.S. decides to take a unilateral prejudicial and punitive action of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state.

They listed that in case Pakistan is declared a terrorist state it would provide unchecked impetus to the spread, or proliferation of nuclear technology to all the Muslim states including Iran, Syria, Iraq, Sudan and Libya. Also all moderates in Pakistan will be engulfed by the radical political groups and the country will become a hostage to fundamentalists. This gives an opportunity of entry of Aghan and Arab mojahedin into Kashmir, which till now has been blocked by Pakistan, one or the other way. It will further lead to the inflow of sophisticated weapons through Afghans into Kashmir which have been effectively checked by Pakistan Government so far.

Another repercussion of this crucial decision will push Pakistan to the wall and a total cooperation between Iran and Pakistan will be expected in all fields including nuclear. The punitive action from U.S. will also follow an open assistance to non Hindus and Shuderas in India besides a possibility of initiation of conventional war between India and Pakistan which will increase manifold with strong possibility of escalation to nuclear. The decision will also follow extreme anti-American reaction all over Pakistan—perhaps leading to a total split-forcing all Americans to quit Pakistan.

And obviously, with nothing more to lose Muslims will get totally fed up with the Christian West's crusade against them. And extremist elements are likely to take over control in Pakistan. With Golboddin Hekmatyar becoming prime minister in Afghanistan and Iran already under radicals, an extremist bloc comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran with no checks, could eventually engulf the neighbouring Central Asian Republics and Gulf states. This bloc is most likely to provide all out support to dissident groups in the Muslim monarchies and controlled dictatorial democracies to bring down the sitting govts in favour of the radicals, eliminating islands of U.S. influence in the Middle East and the Gulf completely.

Above all no amount of sanctions against arms and ammo will work as Afghanistan has ten years reserves which the Russians had dumped. [passage omitted]

U.S. Urged To 'Act Realistically'

BK0504155193 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
28 Mar 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Moral Responsibility of the United States"]

[Text] Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Pakistan has invited all human rights organizations, journalists, and parliamentarians of the world, including those from India, to come and see for themselves whether alleged terrorist bases and training camps exist anywhere inside Pakistan, including Azad Kashmir. He said any journalist, member of any human rights organization, or member of parliament of any country can come and assess the situation on the ground.

The Pakistan Government's offer is very heartening and its attitude in this respect is very logical in view of the allegations—greatly intensified after the bomb blasts in Bombay—by India and some Western countries about Pakistan being a terrorist state. The fact is that there is no bigger terrorist state in this region than India whose majority community has not only made the lives of Muslims within its boundaries difficult but has also let loose a reign of terror in a disputed area like Kashmir with the help of about 500,000 troops stationed there. India also avails itself of the Jewish lobby in the United States, through which it exerts its influence on the U.S. mass media and government institutions. Only a few days ago, former U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz fell in with this Indian propaganda by speaking in its favor. The U.S. Government is apparently ready to declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

The posture hitherto adopted by India with respect to occupied Kashmir is not hidden from the United States or Britain. The members of the British House of Commons and Amnesty International have already requested India to allow their delegations to visit Srinagar, but New Delhi firmly rejected their call. Pakistan has declared on several occasions that even though it has religious and other ties with the Kashmiris, it only gives them moral support and assistance and wants India to accord them their right to self-determination. Pakistan has never intervened in that disputed territory. It is India that has deployed troops there and the United States is aware of all this.

Now Pakistan has thrown the ball in India's court. New Delhi should also allow foreign delegations to visit occupied Kashmir. It has also offered a moral challenge to the United States to advise India to allow such visits to find out who is the real terrorist. India has erected barbed wire fences not only along the Line of Control in Kashmir but also along the East Punjab border and has established buffer zones where security forces conduct patrols. Even then, New Delhi is crying itself hoarse that Pakistan is allegedly aiding and abetting terrorism. Under these circumstances, the U.S. leadership should not only heed the advice of the pro-India lobbies in the U.S. Congress but should also act realistically.

Nuclear, Drug Issues Topics for U.S. Visit

BK0504091493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas
Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Federal Minister Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan left Islamabad for Washington today as special envoy of the prime minister for talks with American officials on bilateral issues, including the nuclear issue, Kashmir, and drug trafficking. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he is carrying a message from Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif for President Clinton. He said his talks will help give new thrust and impetus to the two countries' relationship. He said the first high-level political contact between Pakistan and the U.S. Administration is very significant, particularly in the light of certain regional

developments and indications from both sides of the seriousness to engage in a dialogue. He categorically stated that Pakistan was committed to combating terrorism and we would try to identify ways and means in which the two countries can cooperate in this regard.

Replying to a question, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan said Pakistan feels that by targeting Pakistan on the question of terrorism, India is basically trying to hide its abuse of human rights in Kashmir and other parts of India. Answering another question, the minister said Pakistan cannot be ignored because of its geopolitical importance, because of its location, and also due to other developments taking place, including its new economic policies and importance vis-a-vis Afghanistan and Central Asian republics.

NSG 'Concerned' Over Nuclear Purchases

BK0504100993 Islamabad THE NATION in English
5 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Lucerne (Switzerland) (PPI)—The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) are specially concerned about Chinese exports to a nuclear energy power project in Pakistan. Besides Pakistan, some other potential nuclear states that raise proliferation concerns among the NSG members (a group of 28 countries) are India, Israel, Algeria and Cuba. The NSG members who met in Lucerne, Switzerland March 31 and April 1, took a further step toward controlling proliferation of goods and technology needed for production of nuclear weapons.

The NSG prohibited its members from exporting nuclear material, components and equipment to any non-nuclear weapon country that lacks what is called "full scope safeguards."

Under this requirements, the importing country must have an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for applying safeguards on all nuclear material within its borders, not just at the project for which the import is intended. The NSG seeks to prevent exports intended for nuclear energy facilities being diverted to nuclear weapons. The members made full scope safeguards decision in principle at a Warsaw meeting a year ago. The guidelines now require the individual governments to make necessary changes to their laws.

Daily Stresses Need for Nuclear Deterrent

BK0104150593 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
31 Mar 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Attainment of Nuclear Deterrent is a Must"]

[Text] In an interview with the Voice of Germany prior to his departure for Germany for an official visit there, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan will not abandon its nuclear program unilaterally, because doing so will reflect its weakness vis-a-vis India

which conducted a nuclear explosion in 1974. Pakistan has been scrupulously adhering to its stand that it will not manufacture nuclear weapons, but it cannot rule out the possibility of developing such weapons if they become indispensable for the sake of Pakistan's security. The international community should force India to adopt a positive attitude toward this issue.

The Western countries are fully aware of the facts pointed out by the prime minister above. They are also aware of the adverse and negative attitude of India toward Pakistan's past efforts for a regional solution to the nuclear issue through bilateral inspection of installations and a five-nation conference on this issue. In spite of this, only Pakistan is being pressured to roll back its nuclear program, while India already possesses nuclear weapons. Aside from that, the CIA chief recently informed a U.S. Congressional Committee that India is engaged in enriching uranium which can be used for manufacturing nuclear bombs. This U.S. attitude, which is utterly discriminatory as well as tantamount to patronizing India, has dangerously upset the balance of power in the Indian Subcontinent. Meanwhile, the capability of the countries of the region, including Pakistan, to halt any possible Indian aggression is gradually declining. Along with Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have already become the victims of Indian aggression. How can these countries—which cannot even meet the threat posed by India's conventional arms and troops—check the expansionist designs of India which already possesses nuclear weapons? It would not be inappropriate here to say that the lack of a nuclear deterrent on the part of Pakistan has emboldened India and that is why it has been prolonging its forceful occupation of the occupied Kashmir.

Such Western attitude is not only increasing the danger of war in the region but it is also exposing neighboring countries to the threat of use of nuclear weapons by India. There was the danger of a nuclear attack by India in April 1990 when the Indian forces had concentrated along Pakistani border in Rajasthan. At that time, the U.S. journalist Seymour Hersh had claimed that the two countries were on the brink of a nuclear war, and the then CIA director, Robert Gates, had visited the two countries. In short, there is no denying the fact that India's nuclear preparations are not devoid of any designs. But, ironically, nobody objects to India's nuclear program despite its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. It is only Pakistan which is being pressured in this respect, even though Islamabad is ready to sign the NPT provided India also does the same. The prime minister has rightly said that the abandoning of the nuclear program by Pakistan will reflect its weakness vis-a-vis India. Therefore, if Western nations are interested in disarmament and the promotion of the NPT, they should pay attention to India's attitude in the Indian Subcontinent and prevent New Delhi from acquiring more offensive capabilities.

Opposition Plans No-Confidence Move Against Sharif

BK0404003893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1811 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 3 (AFP)—Hamid Nassir Chattha, leader of a dissident group in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML), said Saturday his faction had garnered enough support to oust Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government.

Chattha, who staged a rebellion against Sharif's nomination as PML chief last month following the death of its president Mohammed Khan Junejo, and who resigned as planning minister, said a vote of no confidence in the government would be moved in the lower house later this month.

Besides Chattha, three other ministers have quit and cracks in the ruling party have widened amid reported differences between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Sharif over the latter's plan to amend the constitution to curtail the president's power.

"We are consolidating support of party MPs against Sharif," Chattha said, adding that his faction would seek backing from other opposition groups if it is felt necessary.

Dispelling the impression that the president might dissolve parliament, he said: "We want to bring an in-house change."

"We are satisfied with the response of the deputies," he said, adding: "Sharif is good for neither Pakistan nor the PML or any individual."

No immediate reaction was available from the camp of the prime minister, who returned from an official trip to Germany earlier Saturday.

Sources said mediation efforts were underway by some cabinet ministers to defuse the political crisis.

Cabinet Expresses 'Full Confidence'

BK0404084093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] At its extended session in Islamabad last night, the federal cabinet unanimously expressed full confidence on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The session was chaired by the prime minister and was attended by all the federal ministers and the ministers of state. The cabinet held an informal discussion on the current political situation in the country and granted full authority to Mohammad Nawaz Sharif to deal with it.

According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, at the meeting, a large number of ministers supported the prime minister and expressed full confidence in his leadership.

Nawaz Sharif on Kashmir, Nuclear Program

AU0504140593 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in
German 1 Apr 93 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif by Jochen Reinert; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Reinert] Your Excellency, you recently accompanied the leaders of the parties involved in the Afghan conflict all the way to Mecca for the signing of the Islamabad peace agreement. Why are you so strongly committed to this cause?

[Nawaz Sharif] Pakistan has fraternal ties with its Afghan neighbors that are rooted in history, culture, and faith. The recent fighting in Kabul, which led to the tragic death of thousands of innocent civilians and great material damage, has caused much pain in Pakistan. How can we see any progress for Afghanistan if the parties that fought together as brothers-in-arms during the jihad (holy war) are torn apart by conflicts? Without interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan or trying to force our view onto anybody, we will continue to support consensus and reconciliation to advance the transition process in an atmosphere of peace, harmony, and stability.

[Reinert] Do you believe that the agreement will last; after all, new conflicts have erupted in Kabul....

[Nawaz Sharif] I am optimistic that it will be implemented in letter and spirit. One must not ignore the fact that the Afghan nation and its leadership have hardly any other choice. The agreement contains substantial elements that advance the process of political transition: the formation of a transition government for 18 months, elections, the working out of a constitution, a defense council that monitors compliance with the cease-fire and the ending of hostilities. The agreement is based on an accord on the division of power, which will lead to the establishment of a government that can count on a wide basis.

[Reinert] Another difficult problem in the region is the Kashmir conflict. Both Pakistan and India are claiming this territory. Pakistan wants to solve the conflict on a multilateral basis, India on a bilateral one. What could a compromise look like?

[Nawaz Sharif] The unsettled issue of Jammu and Kashmir is the main reason for the tense relationship between Pakistan and India, which has been like that for a long time. The problem has even been discussed by the UN Security Council. What followed was a whole series of resolutions in favor of Kashmir's right to self-determination under UN control. Both Pakistan and India agreed to these resolutions. Our position on Kashmir is still based on these resolutions. We do not raise any claims against any territory. All we are demanding is the implementation of those resolutions. Unfortunately, India has revoked its formal obligations toward Kashmir and is now seeking new objections to confuse things.

Interestingly, the 1972 Simla Agreement also lists Kashmir as a problem that has not been solved. In line with Article 6 of this agreement, I sent a letter to Prime Minister Rao in August 1992 suggesting a bilateral dialogue on a final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue. Regrettably, India's answer to all our serious initiatives has been negative. We think that the Simla Agreement and the UN resolutions constitute the framework for an amicable solution of the Kashmir problem.

[Reinert] A few months ago, you said that you could imagine an independent Kashmir....

[Nawaz Sharif] How can I imagine something that the people of Kashmir have not even articulated themselves? Their wishes are essential, and to find out what they want would require a plebiscite, which is what the UN resolution suggests. As you know, Kashmir is fighting for self-determination. They are engaged in a heroic fight against 500,000 Indian soldiers. They are exposed to terrible violations of human rights. Men are being slaughtered, women raped, children killed or mutilated. Entire families are being extinguished, entire villages burned down. Do you think that anyone can achieve the solution of the Kashmir problem by force, a solution that would sacrifice their inalienable right?

[Reinert] After the withdrawal of the Soviet Armed Forces from Afghanistan, the United States stopped economic and military aid for your country on the grounds that Pakistan was producing nuclear arms....

[Nawaz Sharif] Let me first of all emphasize that Pakistan's nuclear policy is geared toward the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We are a country poor in fuel and with increasing energy needs to secure our economic development. In Europe, a number of countries, including France and Germany, are also banking on nuclear energy in similar conditions. The United States has indeed stopped its economic and military aid to Pakistan. Yet this is due to a series of misunderstandings regarding the nuclear issue on both sides. Pakistan and the United States are discussing the issue, and we hope that it can be solved. At the same time, we have proved our commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear arms by concrete proposals in which we suggest regional measures, including a five-nation conference. All the countries affected have welcomed our initiative with the exception of India.

[Reinert] After the U.S. decision, some industrialized nations such as Germany are now considering halting development aid for countries like Pakistan on the grounds of "excessive armaments." What is your position on this complex issue?

[Nawaz Sharif] Military spending has become a subject to which the industrialized nations attach great importance in their discussion with the developing countries. However, this spending can be judged only in the context of the security situation of each individual country. Pakistan, for example, does not only have to take into

account India's attitude in the past, but also its current military capability. As Clausewitz said quite rightly, any cautious country must have a defense capacity of one to three to be able to protect itself. India is nine times as big as Pakistan, and our military budget is somewhat less than one-third of India's official military spending.

In bilateral talks with the developed countries, including Germany, we have discussed this fact, and these countries have understood our position. I do not think that development aid will be cut because of this factor. After all, Pakistan is interested in establishing good relations with India—so that we can use significant sums of money, which we are currently using for defense, for tasks related to development. Therefore, the developed countries should show the same interest in the solution of regional problems that are the reason for such military spending. [passage omitted]

Sharif Nomination as League President Viewed

БК0204155193 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 29 Mar 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Muslim League Presidency—Proposal of Party Elders"]

[Text] Nearly 75 of the elders and leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League have nominated Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif as the candidate for the party presidency in an informal meeting or assembly at the Prime Minister's House on Saturday. The nomination was nearly unanimous as, among the participants, only Federal Minister Hamid Nasir Chattha did not endorse the decision and staged a walk out saying that, after all, why was there such a hurry in nominating the candidate. Therefore, his objection was not against the candidacy of Nawaz Sharif, but against the mode, which reflected haste. A report also says that before quitting the meeting, he supported the nomination of the prime minister in principle, but suggested that the party presidency issue be postponed until after the 40th day funeral obsequies of Mohammad Khan Junejo. But the participants in the meeting did not endorse this view. After three and a half hours of deliberations, more than 30 participants described Nawaz Sharif as the most suitable candidate for the presidency. Three of them—Balochistan Chief Minister Mohammad Taj Mohammad Jamali, Nissar Mohammad Khan, and Fida Mohammad Khan—opined that the relations between the president and the prime minister should also be discussed. But most of the members were of the view that the issue of the nomination for the Muslim League presidency has nothing to do with relations between the president and the prime minister and there is no justification for raising it at the meeting. After his nomination at the meeting, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said he would make all efforts to justify the confidence reposed in him by the party leaders and that in the future also he would devote all his skills to strengthening the party. He said he would take everyone along with him and the Muslim League would be made a people's party in the real sense of the term. He

also expressed the hope that all the existing differences in the party would be eliminated.

The aspirations of the benefactors of the country would be the solidarity of the founding party of Pakistan and differences, if any, should be eliminated. Those Muslim League leaders who did not attend the meeting on Saturday and those who commented on its proceedings have also expressed the desire to safeguard the unity of the party. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, secretary general of the Muslim League, said he expects that the prudence and sagacity of the Muslim Leaguers would not allow any split in the party. Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti, who did not attend the meeting and who claims to be the vice president of the party, said Nawaz Sharif has the right to (?proclaim) his candidacy and no objection can be raised against it. But despite the above statements, it is sad to note that "everything is not good" in the ranks of the Muslim League now. Messrs. Hoti, Nasir Chattha, and Iqbal Ahmad Khan have declined to accept the legality of Saturday's meeting, whereas its convenors also do not claim that it was a formal meeting of the council. But the difficulty is that there is no consensus among the members of the general council, which is the competent body for deciding on elections to the presidency. Abdul Sattar Lalika, the Muslim League vice president, has said that every Muslim Leaguer, every member of the National Assembly, the Senate, and the provincial assemblies is a member of the council and is competent enough to vote. But, Iqbal Ahmad Khan and Abdul Ghafoor Hoti, who claim to have a separate list of members of the council, say that only those on their list are competent to elect the president. Hence, there is a basic controversy between those Muslim Leaguers who attended the Saturday meeting and those who did not. Hoti convened the council meeting on 29 April, whereas Lalika says that being the senior-most vice president of the party, he is the competent authority to convene the meeting and that the one convened by Hoti is not legally valid. Sources close to Hoti also indicate that he intends to convene the council meeting during the first week of April. There are rumors that some ministers who are said to belong to the Junejo group are going to resign from the Cabinet. But another report says that those three ministers and the adviser have submitted their resignations to the president and will announce this in a news conference on Sunday. If this report holds good, their decision will have come to light by the time of this column.

All these things are a cause for concern and anxiety to any patriotic Pakistani, and he would wish that Muslim League leaders would resolve their internal differences. But, in view of the developments, it seems that it is somewhat difficult for this wish to be fulfilled. We still hope that the Muslim League elders will display statesmanship and prudence and desist from pushing the issue to the point of no return. The welfare of all the people concerned is in the unity of the Muslim League. The convenors of the meeting on Saturday themselves do not have a claim on its legality. But, the fact cannot be denied that there was full representation of the Muslim

Leaguers and hence their decision can be taken for a majority decision. None of those against the meeting, in principle, opposed the nomination of Nawaz Sharif. There is not even an alternative name or an opponent to Nawaz Sharif. Under these circumstances, the best solution will be that those who oppose the decision of the meeting on Saturday should revise their stand. The recognized principle of democracy is to accept the decision of the majority. The best way to ensure the unity of the Muslim League and to strengthen the current democratic process will be to welcome the recommendation of the majority of the Muslim League elders. As the prime minister said he would take everyone along, his friends and sympathizers should continue their efforts to convince the members and leaders who oppose him in order to resolve the issue of electing a successor to Mohammad Khan Junejo unanimously. Despite all difficulties and pressures, Mohammad Khan Junejo kept the party united. Those who were close to him should follow the practical example of their leader and play their role in maintaining unity in the party. If the Muslim League leaders are divided, it will not be a good omen for democracy, party politics, and the solidarity of the country at large.

Differences Between President, PM 'Not Resolved'

BK0504102993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
5 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—The PML [Pakistan Muslim League] faction, believed to be led by Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has dispelled the impression given by the government that the differences between President and Prime Minister has been resolved during their Sunday's meeting.

The politicians in the Presidential camp also apprehend that the official nomination of Ghulam Ishaq Khan for his second term is neither the end of the events nor a means to end the tension between GIK [Ghulam Ishaq Khan] and Nawaz Sharif.

Abdul Ghafoor Hoti, GIK's friend and the acting President of the party, when contacted by THE NEWS termed the development as "April fool" and a "joke with the nation". He said the Premier's announcement to support GIK in the fourthcoming Presidential election is not the "final event". A lot will follow it.

He said the government's announcement is contrary to its contention. Hoti asked where did the previous stance of the government which, according to it was based on principles, go. "Only a few days back they were referring to the constitution and principles. But what happened to them so quickly?"

They raised the issue and now they have ended it. He said for this the government should be ashamed of itself.

Another Leaguer on condition of anonymity told THE NEWS that the fresh move of the "Nawaz Sharif team" tantamounts to secure his fate. He believed that the

President's reservation were still persisting and the Leaguers who had opened a front against Nawaz Sharif would go ahead with their plan.

"The Premier has used his last card by nominating the President. Now he can be easily concerned, pressed and dismissed," he said. However, he expressed his doubts whether the Premiers and his team really voted for GIK.

Senator Tariq Chandhry in a statement issued here on Sunday late evening said it was too late how to discuss the issue of rapprochement and reconciliation. He said it was the time to evolve a strategy which could give political and democratic strength to the country.

When THE NEWS contacted Iqbal Ahmed Khan, he did not make any comment on the new development.

Editorial Views 'Face-Off'

BK0504101993 Islamabad THE NATION in English
5 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Options for PM"]

[Text] As the political crisis unravels, it is clear now that in the on-going face-off between the President and the Prime Minister, the options to maintain the political status quo are getting fewer and fewer. The compromise formula that Mr. Soomro is said to have tried to hawk to the two sides, has reportedly been turned down by the President's camp. The formula itself, on the surface, looks innocent enough. That the President should support the Prime Minister in his candidature for the Presidentship of the Muslim League and the Prime Minister should support the President for a second term, was at the core of it. The Eighth Amendment was presumably left on hold. But had it gone through, it would have exposed the President's hand, making him look like an unprincipled politician trading off his "following" in the Muslim League in return for an extension in office. It would have amounted to an acknowledgment of the fact that the President, who is supposed to be above the political fray, can and does manipulate the Muslim League on the one hand and is avaricious enough, on the other, to seek a second term at any cost. Even though both the Prime Minister and President would have appeared as bereft of political morality, the President would have come off as the worse of the two. No wonder there was little enthusiasm for the formula in the President's camp. The President is not being guided by high principles of political morality and he seems to be quite willing to go the whole hog in order to secure another term, even if it means destroying the very fabric of democratic institutions in the country. The question now is: what are the options available to the Prime Minister?

Considering the queue of politicians moving in the direction of the Presidency seeking a vote of confidence from the Assembly would be fraught with its own dangers for the PM. His advising the President to dissolve the Assembly, binding as it would be on the President,

may bring little relief. Firstly, because it is doubtful if the President would ask him to continue as the caretaker Prime Minister. And secondly, with his hand no longer on the levers of power, it is not certain he can ride the kind of tide that brought him the Premiership after the last elections.

Two other options are available to him. One, that he should capitulate and become "your most obedient servant". That could save him for the time being but it is doubtful whether it would enhance his image as an independent agent not tied to the apron strings of the establishment. One opinion though is that the establishment having decided to dump him anyway, even total surrender will not help. The second option, and in a way the more difficult option for him, would be to take a stand on principles and face the consequences. Offices come and go, but letting it be known that one cannot stand up for one's principles is the worst thing one can do to one's self-esteem as well as to one's creditworthiness as a politician.

Prime Minister on Economy, Foreign Issues

BK0504124593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister has underlined the need for making the country's economy dynamic and self-reliant so as to end the nation's dependence on foreign economic assistance. Addressing a dinner he hosted for the Pakistan Army formation commanders in Islamabad last night, Nawaz Sharif said political freedom always remains meaningless without achieving economic emancipation. He said during the past two and a half years, his government has undertaken revolutionary economic reform measures to ensure national stability. The stronger we are, the easier it will be for us to face pressures against Pakistan, he asserted. Pakistan has proved that it will stick to its stand on major issues, such as the nuclear issue and the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, no matter how harsh the pressures it faces in this regard. The nation will not flinch from any sacrifices, he declared.

The prime minister said economic reforms have started to yield results and Pakistan's growth rate is about 6 percent, the highest in South Asia. Domestic and foreign private investment has increased and despite floods and an unfavorable international situation, exports have also registered an increase. He said work is on to ensure development of human resources in the state sector, to alleviate poverty through social action programs, and to control environmental pollution.

Referring to Pakistan's foreign policy, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said his government attaches priority to establishing friendly and close relations with neighboring countries. The success of the freedom struggle in Afghanistan has changed the geopolitical situation and military balance in the region and now Pakistan can consider Afghanistan as a friendly country that will serve as a gateway for Pakistan's access to Central Asian countries.

The Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], which now also groups Afghanistan and the Central Asian states, provides excellent opportunities to us for expanding and strengthening our economic and cultural ties with the people of these countries, and in view of the vast expanse of friendly countries in our neighborhood, Pakistan has acquired a new and vital defense depth. He described the Quetta ECO action plan as a milestone in regional cooperation and expressed the hope that by the turn of this century, Pakistan will be able to establish contacts with all ECO member-countries in the fields of communication, energy, and economic system.

The prime minister said Pakistan has further strengthened and consolidated its bilateral ties with China and Iran. It also enjoys very close relations with the Gulf countries and is also trying to establish excellent relations with Russia on the basis of equality.

Nawaz Sharif said India is the only neighboring country with which Pakistan's relations have been constantly tense. He said if the core issue of Kashmir is resolved, the two countries can easily resolve their differences, including the nuclear issue. He said as long as the Kashmir issue continues to burn, the tension will continue to mount. This kind of tense relationship may bring about highly regrettable results, as is evident from the Ayodhya mosque demolition and reactions to that incident. He reaffirmed Islamabad's resolve to continue the dialogue with New Delhi for a peaceful and honorable settlement of its differences, despite disappointing results achieved thus far in this connection. The prime minister said Pakistan should continue to forge cooperation at the regional and international levels in order to play its due role in the international community. It should maintain friendly ties with all countries, especially the United States and the industrialized countries, and protect the position and support it enjoys in the Islamic world, because the Islamic nations are natural friends and allies of Pakistan.

Government To Vet Afghan Refugee Groups

BK0504103293 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Apr 93 p 12

[By Rahimullah Yusufzal]

[Text] Peshawar—Government officials would start a physical verification of the employees of Peshawar and Quetta based non-governmental organisations (NGOs) looking after Afghan refugees from April 10-17.

Official sources said the exercise was aimed at streamlining the affairs of the NGOs following complaints that some of them may be harbouring expatriates wanted by their respective governments in criminal and political cases. In particular allegations have been made against the Islamic and Arab NGOs that they provide sanctuaries to Muslim militants from all over the world.

The government had earlier decided to ban unregistered NGOs and deport all foreigners staying illegally in the

country. The authorities, however, extended their deadlines quite a few times owing to the difficulties in gathering precise information and on account of pressure exerted by various quarters.

April 3 was being described as the latest deadline to initiate action against the unregistered NGOs and illegal foreigners but authorities clarified that no cut-off date had yet been decided.

It was, however, revealed that government officials would be visiting the NGOs offices in Peshawar from April 10-14 and in Quetta from April 14-17 for physical verification about their stated staff strength, their projects and their future plans.

The Islamic and Arab NGOs, totalling about a dozen, had more than 700 employees. The government is anxious to find out whether so many staffers are really required by these NGOs or not. It would also want to prepare a dossier of these people and tally it with the pictures and biodata of Islamic militants wanted by some of the Middle Eastern countries as well as the U.S. and other Western states. It is likely that some of the NGOs would be asked to reduce the number of their staffers.

Meanwhile, the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] government has refuted the impression that it wasn't cooperating with the federal government in hauling up the illegal foreigners and closing down the unregistered NGOs. A provincial government spokesman said it would implement whatever decision is taken by the Center. He said the Frontier would be glad to see the alleged terrorists back home because their presence would threaten peace and compound the problems of the provincial government.

About 2,800 Arabs registered with the Pakistan government are stated to be still living here. A number of them were believed to have crossed over into Afghanistan. Several Arab countries, including Egypt and Algeria, are said to have complained to Islamabad about the presence of Islamic militants wanted by their governments in Pakistan.

Even the genuine Arab aid workers who came here to help the Afghan refugees have aroused suspicion in the wake of allegations their extremist Arabs who received military training in Afghanistan had returned to their countries to wage a war against their largely conservative, pro-West governments.

Minister Says Eighth Amendment To Be Dropped
BK0504101493 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 93
pp 1, 20

[By Shaheen Sehba]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, April 4—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was nominated by the Federal Cabinet as the official government candidate for a second term as

president within hours of a 90-minute heart-to-heart talk with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and two mediators, Illahi Bakhsh Soomro and General (Retd) Majid Malik.

The presidential nomination came in an urgently summoned cabinet meeting after which jubilant ministers claimed everything had been settled and peace had been restored between the two top executives of the country.

But signals from the presidential camp were mixed as a top source, close to the President himself, told DAWN Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan had told the Prime Minister: "It is not my concern whether you nominate me or not, do whatever you want to do."

The meeting between the President and the Prime Minister was the culmination of a series of mediation attempts in which Minister Illahi Bakhsh Soomro shuttled between the Presidency and the Prime Minister House on Sunday until the president agreed to see the Prime Minister.

Soomro and General (Retd) Majid Malik saw the President earlier in the morning and later joined Mr. Nawaz Sharif for the 90 minute discussion on many issues, except the Eighth Amendment.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif rushed from the Presidency into an emergency Cabinet meeting where everybody agreed that Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan should be named as the government coalition candidate.

Ministers who came out of the Prime Minister House after the meeting told journalists the decision had been taken to name the President but the resolution left out the other controversial issue of the Eighth Amendment still unresolved.

Chaudhry Amir Hussain, minister for parliamentary affairs, told waiting newsmen outside the PM House the Eighth Amendment would also be dropped but this was the only time the issue came up.

The reaction in the presidential camp was cool and calculated as cabinet ministers and others who were working for a compromise believed that a major breakthrough had been made. [passage omitted]

Benazir Bhutto on Current Issues

BK0304094793 Islamabad THE NATION in English
3 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Ms Benazir Bhutto by unidentified correspondent of the Arabic daily AL-HARYAT—date and place not given]

[Text] London—All three Ministers resignations from the Nawaz Sharif Cabinet have shaken the government and this move will push Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to polls this year rather than linger on for two more years.

This was stated by the Co-Chairperson of Pakistan Peoples Party and the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Ms. Benazir Bhutto here during an interview on Thursday contrived to AL-HARYAT, an Arabic-language daily.

Following is the text of the interview:

[AL-HARYAT] What are your views on latest political developments in Pakistan.

[Bhutto] I believe that Nawaz Sharif is a man of missed opportunities. He has failed to reach any reconciliation or understanding with his ruling partners, and his efforts to build bridges of dialogue with the Opposition have utterly failed too.

We, on the Opposition side, even after the rigged elections of 1990, behind this the sake of Pakistan, its people and government all efforts should be made to provide the people with opportunities for stability and prosperity [sentence as published]. But Nawaz Sharif who used all means to oust us has been reluctance to respond to our invitation to dialogue for cooperation.

[AL-HARYAT] What is the purpose of this dialogue?

[Bhutto] From the very beginning what we have said was meant to achieve democratic reforms. This meant applying the proper principles of democracy [words indistinct] of the government's mishandling of the people's political and economic interests, and the adoption of all measure to guarantee free parliamentary elections in the next round, free of partiality and pressures.

Nawaz Sharif refused all this as he felt it might lead us to return to power. Rather he decided to crush us. He has ignored the fact that governments come and go, and that he would not be able to stay there forever. It is better for him to prefer interests of the people while he is in power and not when he becomes weak and incapable. He has really proved to be a man of missed opportunities. This will force him to opt for elections this year instead of waiting until 1995.

[AL-HARYAT] How certain are you of this?

[Bhutto] It is not clear yet whether the division in the Cabinet will lead to a division in Parliament and therefore to general elections. After the resignations of three Ministers and divisions within the ruling party, everything is possible.

[AL-HARYAT] If elections are held this year, do you think you would return to government with you party?

[Bhutto] Nowadays, the authority in Pakistan is shared by the President, the Prime Minister and the Army, though the involvement of the army is not a public matter. This partnership will continue until 1995. We in the party rely on the principles of popular representation. The people decide, and the people elect. I refuse to head a government unless I am elected by the people for this post. Honour, pride and trust are bestowed by the

people and not by stitching [word as published] power. However, if the next elections were held on free and fair basis even 50 percent then we are sure to return to power. As for our party, our parliamentary base is stronger and more solid than their's. We shall continue to work for an early elections under a coalition government to secure freedom and impartiality. If Nawaz Sharif's government should stand in the way, then it would be clear this government is against reforms and must take the blame. This will also play into the hands of the fundamentalists who do not believe in elections and democracy.

I believe that the measure of true democracy are the people who hold to its principles, not those who would abolish it once it takes them to power. We have to look into the cause of growing fundamentalism in countries such as Algeria and Iran. Why fundamentalism is spreading throughout the Islamic world? [sentence as published]

[Question omitted]

[Bhutto] In my opinion, one reason is the belief among Muslims that there is no power available to protect the Islamic values. Take, for instance, what is happening in Palestine and Bosnia Hercegovina, and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. President Hashmi Raranjani of Iran has now embarked on a course of change in order to bring Iran back to its glorious past as an oil-rich country. Of course, I am not saying Iran was better off under the Shah who was undemocratic, but that the rule of law, democracy and justice is a thing suitable for the Muslim States. No reform could be applied otherwise. No reform could be achieved by surrendering to the old mentality.

[AL-HARYAT] Day by day the problem of Arab Muslims who fought in Afghanistan and moved to Pakistan is being aggravated, and has led to the United States accusation of which said Pakistan is a terrorist State [sentence as published]. What are your views on this issue?

[Bhutto] There are problems of Pakistani origin and others beyond the borders of Pakistan, when the war was waged against Soviet invasion. It was viewed by the Muslim world as Jihad against enemies of Islam, that is why Muslims came to their help.

Now the Afghan veterans are looking for new battle field and new adventures in countries such as Egypt and Algeria. Pakistan had to bear the consequences of the use of its territory as a return path from Afghanistan to other countries.

I do not believe Pakistan can sustain is classification as a country supporting or exporting terrorism, and thus be under the threat of an international boycott.

I think what the Pakistani government is doing in this respect is but an adventure for which the Pakistani people will pay the price. Since the government does not enjoy public support, it grants these people an "open

ticket" to do as they please. This is not Jihad. Jihad is to serve the people and protect their interests. In fact, every ruling dictator resorted to religion as a weapon to assert this rule, ignoring that this weapon is double-sided and eventually back-fires.

[AL-HARYAT] Does Pakistan really has a nuclear bomb?

[Bhutto] I do not know, whether Pakistan has such a weapon, but I do know that Pakistan has the capability and expertise to make such a bomb which we, nowadays, do not need. There is no immediate security danger. If we have nuclear bomb now, it will antagonise the big powers. At present we are passing through severe economic crisis. There is evidence that the present Pakistani government has borrowed a lot of money. We can now see the adverse effects of economic boycott against Libya and Iraq. Why should we antagonise Western countries and friendly and neighbouring countries by breaching international law.

We are concerned about Pakistan's future and the fate of its people.

[AL-HARYAT] Don't you think that Pakistan should go nuclear to defend itself?

[Bhutto] No, I do not. Nuclear weapons are not solution of our problems. It will only help us to become international pariahs. What we actually need is to behave responsibly. We do not need exceptional weapons.

Saudi Air Force Chief Arrives 2 Apr

BK0204151293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The commander of Saudi Royal Air Force, Lieutenant General Ahmad Bin-Ibrahim Buhayri, arrived in Rawalpindi today on an eight-day official visit to Pakistan. He was received at the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] base, Chakrala, by Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Farooq Firoze Khan; and the Saudi ambassador in Pakistan, Mr. Yusuf M. Mutabbakani. The Saudi air chief is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of Air Chief Marshal Farooq Firoze Khan. He is leading a six-member delegation. During his stay in Pakistan, Lieutenant General Ahmad Bin-Ibrahim Buhayri will have discussions on professional matters with chief of the Air Staff.

Sharif Returns From European Trip 3 Apr

BK0304111193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said his talks with the leaders of Germany, Britain and Egypt had not only enhanced prospects for bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and these countries, but had led to deeper understanding of Pakistan's policies on vital global and regional issues. He said this in a statement in Islamabad on his return early this morning from Germany after the official visit, which he described as

most satisfying and productive. He said that the primary objective of the visit was to strengthen political and economic cooperation at the bilateral level. Chancellor Kohl has shown special interest in Pakistan's progress based on the government's economic reforms and liberalization policy. He has given assurances that Germany will provide all possible help in increasing investment and trade with Pakistan. Chancellor Kohl showed great interest in the Pakistan Investment Conference, which was held successfully in Cologne during the prime minister's visit there.

The prime minister said his discussion with Chancellor Kohl has led to a greater understanding, particularly on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. He explained Pakistan's policy on this issue as well as on defense spending in the region. On Pakistan-India relations, he gave a full briefing to Chancellor Kohl with particular reference to Kashmir. He has underlined the urgency for a peaceful negotiated settlement of Kashmir which he considered to be the core issue between India and Pakistan. He regretted that India had not meaningfully addressed the issue and had blamed Pakistan over its indigenous problems.

The prime minister said he found Chancellor Kohl responsive to the need for a reduction in the defense expenditures of India and Pakistan and for a regional settlement of the issues. Chancellor Kohl congratulated the prime minister on the Islamabad Accord on Afghanistan and expressed the hope that it would lead to a peace that would enable the return of Afghan refugees to their homes. He said he had briefed Chancellor Kohl about the expanded Economic Cooperation Organization and had discussed with him the entire range of global and regional issues.

Referring to his meeting with British Prime Minister John Major in London, he described it as extremely useful and very productive. He said the main subject of their discussion was Kashmir. Their discussions were useful and he reaffirmed Pakistan's interest in the purchase of frigates, naval warships, and Chieftain tanks.

About his unscheduled meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak in Bonn, the prime minister said he had had a very productive meeting, during which they expressed concern at extremist militant activities by some elements in the region.

To Begin UAE Visit 7 Apr

BK0504094493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will leave Islamabad for the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on Wednesday [7 April] on a two-day visit. He is making this visit at the invitation of UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan. During his stay in the UAE, both leaders will discuss vital regional and international issues.

Commentary Views Economic, Trade Ties With Germany

BK0304101093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Commentary by Dr. A.R. Kamal]

[Text] The economic relationship between Pakistan and Germany must have figured prominently during the talks of prime minister with German leaders, officials, and people. Prime Minister also addressed the investment conference to attract German investors to Pakistan. Considering the positive responses of German investors, the performance of German firms located already in Pakistan, warm relations between the two countries, and Pakistan's credibility with Germans, there are wide prospects of enhanced trade, aid, and foreign investments from Germany.

Pakistan's exports to Germany in 1991-1992 amounted to 12 billion rupees, while our imports were even higher, that is 18 billion rupees. Germany, the third largest donor, provides Pakistan the aid at rather concessional terms and its interest rate is 0.75 percent with repayment period extending to 30 to 50 years.

Many a German company working in Pakistan has been instrumental in the development of vendor industries leading to transfer of technology. Nevertheless, the trade, aid, and investment flow from Germany is well below the potential and efforts need to be mounted to realize that potential.

Germany is the most important member of the European Community. It needs to be noted that Germany, like other countries of the community, has to impose some tariff which the community decides and provide duty-free access to her market to all the members of the community. It implies that Europeans would have free trade among themselves and they would pursue protectionism towards the other countries of the world. This is sad because such a policy denies the fruits of free trade to Europe, other developed countries, and more importantly to Pakistan and the other developing countries, considering that the North-South Commission under the former German Chancellor

Willy Brandt had recommended access to the developing world. Pakistan and other developing countries may impress upon the need for (?liberal) trade to Germany to review the [words indistinct] of the European countries to abandon protectionism.

Foreign aid is provided by a country depending on its own resources, priorities, and political relations. Germany is a rich country which (?grants) favorable payments. Since Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Germany, we hope that Pakistan would have a larger share. If Pakistan succeeds in that, the prospects of obtaining commitments of higher magnitudes from other members of the consortium will be quite high. To what extent we can be successful in persuading Germany to provide assistance and its impact on the other countries will become well-known shortly in the consortium meeting.

Foreign private investment is becoming increasingly more important in the development process. In Pakistan, all efforts are being made to attract it because the future growth of manufacturing crucially depends on the availability of technology owned by the multinationals. Thirty-two German companies are operating in Pakistan in different manufacturing activities, especially in the electrical machinery and pharmaceuticals. It is significant to note that the delegates to the conference have termed investment climate as very conducive and view Pakistan as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Moreover, besides manufacturing, they have shown interest in investing in energy and transport.

No doubt, multinationals would produce import substitutes for consumer durables which are being presently imported. However, unless the multinationals produce components or basic elements in the country, no transfer of technology is effective. Fortunately, the track record in transfer of technology of Europeans is relatively better and, as such, German firms may be importing technology by developing the vendor industries. In the past, they have done well in this direction. Let us hope that our expectations regarding German trade, aid, and investments are fulfilled and more resources flow from Germany as well as European nations.